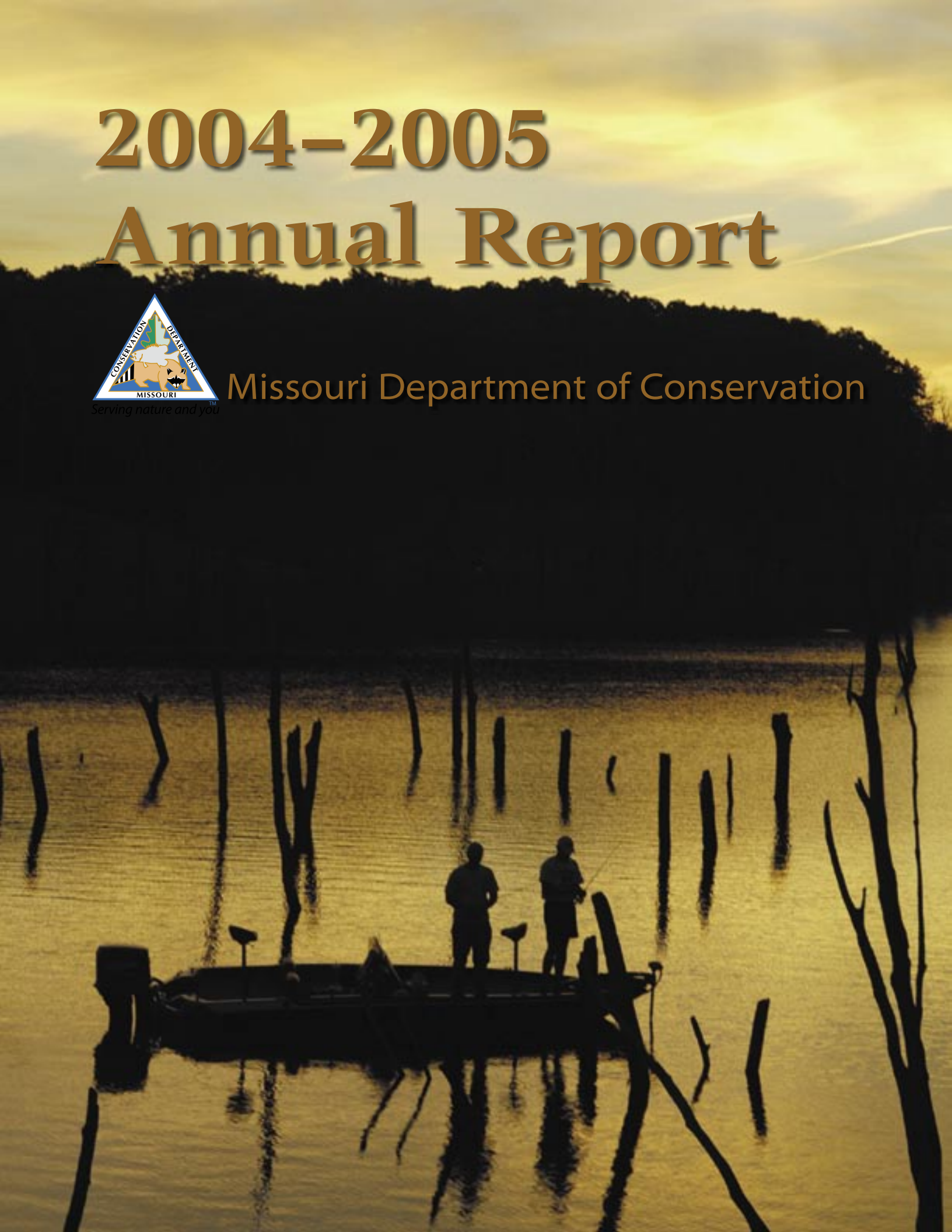
2004–2005 Annual Report

Missouri Department of Conservation



Annual Report

Missouri Department of Conservation

Fiscal Year July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005

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ANNUAL REPORT
Fiscal Year 2005

CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
MISSOURI

This summary of the Annual Report highlights the Conservation Department's accomplishments and expenditures from July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005. These accomplishments are based on the three components of the Department's mission statement.

"To protect and manage the fish, forest and wildlife resources of the state."

Bagnell Dam/AmerenUE Settlement: The settlement agreement asks the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to adopt specific conditions to protect the fishery and wetland resources affected by the relicensing of Bagnell Dam/AmerenUE power generation utility. If accepted, the benefits to the natural resources, and the multi-billion dollar Lake of the Ozarks tourism industry, will extend for the 40-year life of the new license. At Lake of the Ozarks, fish kills will be minimized, critical habitats protected and adequate water levels retained. Water quality and habitat improvements will be provided for the 82 miles of the Osage River below Bagnell Dam.

Mississippi River Sturgeon Regulations: In cooperation with Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee, the Department established new regulations on the commercial harvest of shovelnose sturgeon in the Mississippi River. These regulations are designed to protect the sturgeon population from overharvest due to the worldwide demand for caviar.

Catfish Harvest Management Study: In 2004, a 5-year catfish harvest management study was initiated to learn about flathead and blue catfish ecology and population dynamics. In 2005, more than 8,000 catfish were captured, tagged and released; it is the largest such study ever conducted. Monitoring population and size-class changes will provide better information to manage these popular sportfish. The study will also look at spawning behavior and catfish movement.

Healthy Forests: Over 53,000 acres of forestland were actively managed during the 2004–05 fiscal year. Missouri's public forests are managed to promote forest health and sustainability. Additionally, managed forests provide opportunities for hiking, equestrian use, birding, hunting and numerous other activities.

Conserving All Wildlife in Missouri: The Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy was completed and submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is a federal requirement that will allow Missourians to obtain additional federal funds. The strategy describes the Department's plans for conserving native plants and animals and the habitats they depend upon.

Quail and Grassland Bird Habitat: The Department emphasized restoration of quail and grassland bird habitats on Department lands, implemented regional quail/grassland bird action plans, and identified prospective private landowner cooperatives within quail focus areas. Quail and bird population monitoring was implemented to evaluate management actions.

"To serve the public and facilitate their participation in resource management activities."

Telecheck: The new Telecheck system allows hunters to check deer and turkey by phone or online. The Department estimates it will save $500,000 a year with this system.

Private Land Services staff made 6,087 on-site landowner visits to offer technical assistance in the development of habitat management plans and handled 5,280 requests for wildlife nuisance and/or damage assistance, including 696 on-site visits.

Share the Harvest: Through this program, hunters, in partnership with established charitable organizations, donate deer meat to those in need. Conservation agents coordinate the Share the Harvest program with the Conservation Federation of Missouri. During fiscal year 2004–05, 5,161 hunters donated 275,374 pounds of venison.

Rural Volunteer Fire Department Grants: Each year the Forestry Division, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, provides grants to rural volunteer fire departments. In fiscal year 2004–05, 179 rural fire departments received over $380,000 in grants that funded equipment, special clothing and training.

Cost-share Funds for Private Landowners: Over $1.1 million in cost-share funds were delivered to approximately 850 private landowners to implement beneficial habitat management practices targeting fish, forest and wildlife resources.

"To provide opportunity for all citizens to use, enjoy and learn about fish, forest and wildlife resources."

New Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center opened May 2005 and focuses on southeast Missouri's unique habitats and history. Indoor exhibits include a beaver lodge, swamp, Native American artifacts and more. The outdoors offers ponds and walking trails through forested hills and wetlands.

The "Learning Outdoors" Program was initiated to better help Missouri schools teach children what it takes to keep our fish, forests and wildlife—all nature—thriving. Grants for field trips, outdoor classrooms and learning kits will be integrated with teaching units to meet the demands of student testing as well as the joy of learning.

Deer Hunting: Unlimited antlerless deer permits were available for many Missouri counties (249,518 permits sold) and many more no-cost any-deer and antlerless deer permits were made available free to resident landowners (325,353 permits). The Department annually conducts the Managed Deer Hunt Program providing an additional 73 hunts on state and federal lands. Urban deer harvest opportunities were expanded to maintain deer populations at homeowner-desired herd levels, while satisfying the desires of the growing number of urban hunters.

Youth Hunting: Youth-only portions of deer, turkey and waterfowl hunting seasons not only preserve family values related to hunting traditions, but create opportunities for youth to develop strong personal connections to nature.

What the Money Bought—Fiscal Year 2005

County Assistance Payments—$1,339,405 Includes payments to Missouri's 114 counties for levee and drainage district taxes, forest cropland payments, payments in lieu of real estate taxes and county aid road trust payments. The five largest payments were to Shannon ($104,514), St. Louis ($52,529), Howard ($48,215), Lincoln ($43,618), and Holt ($38,656) counties.

Fisheries—$11,278,187 Managed 897 lakes and 40 stream management areas for public fishing. Over 840,000 people bought fishing permits making fishing one of the most popular outdoor activities in Missouri. Fish hatcheries produced about 8.4 million fish, stocking many farm ponds, reservoirs and streams.

Forestry—$14,987,545 Fostered a healthy and growing forest resource. Examples include distributing 5 million seedlings for planting to nearly 13,000 landowners, developing 180 Landowner Forest Stewardship Plans, bringing an additional 29,000 acres under total resource management, managing 438,700 acres of public forest land, monitoring insect and disease threats, and facilitating development of the state's forest industry.

Wildlife—$15,106,140 Worked towards ensuring wildlife populations that are in harmony with habitat and human enjoyment. Managed 513,776 acres of public land and conducted programs to monitor game and non-game species, develop wetlands and restore wildlife.

Resource Science—$11,669,901 Provided the science-based information needed to effectively manage Missouri's natural resources. Resource Science monitors the status of Missouri's forests, fish, and wildlife, recommends conservation actions, evaluates these actions, and reports the results. In addition to surveys of fish and wildlife, more than 200,000 Missourians were contacted to determine their outdoor activities and opinions about conservation programs.

Protection—$13,470,876 Paid for law enforcement in every county as well as resource management, information, education and public service contact activities conducted by 167 conservation agents who directly contacted 513,792 people. A joint investigation with Iowa resulted in over 200 citations and in excess of $36,000 in fines to individuals who unlawfully bought resident permits in both states. Conservation agents, along with 2,200 volunteer instructors conducted 1,072 hunter education classes, certifying 20,046 students.

Outreach and Education—$16,092,745 Sustained and nourished Missourians' connection to the outdoors by providing educational materials, schoolteacher contacts, outdoor skills programs, the *Missouri Conservationist* magazine, TV show, books, videos, informational programs, staffed shooting ranges and conservation nature centers.

Private Land Services—$6,766,496 Helped private landowners to achieve long-term conservation of natural resources and their land-use objectives. Delivered over $1.1 million in cost-share funds to approximately 850 private landowners; provided on-site technical assistance to over 6,000 private landowners; improved habitat for quail and grassland songbirds on over 10,700 acres of private land; helped landowners enroll almost 6,800 acres into the Wetland Reserve Program; and assisted almost 5,300 private landowners in controlling nuisance wildlife.

Administration—$2,350,815 Paid for audits, legal counsel, planning, environmental coordination, local government assistance, summer help and general expenses and equipment.

Administrative Services and Human Resources—$27,243,693 Paid for human resources, federal reimbursement administration, hunting and fishing permit point-of-sale system, fiscal services, distribution center, print shop, fleet management, vehicle and equipment maintenance centers, and information management and technology. Also includes other agency appropriations, Department-wide equipment and other essential services.

Construction and Development—$16,242,558 Work included fish hatchery improvements, development of nature centers, river accesses, wetlands, shooting ranges and renovation and repair of facilities statewide.

Design and Development—$11,082,357 Paid for building and grounds maintenance, engineering and architectural services.

Receipts



Conservation Sales Tax	$96,524,659
Permit Sales	$30,682,443
Federal Reimbursements	$19,198,694
Sales and Rentals	$7,257,446
Interest	$768,589
Other Sources	$2,687,792
Total Receipts	$157,119,624

Disbursements



Construction & Development	10.4%
Wildlife	9.7%
Forestry	9.6%
Administrative Services & Human Resources	17.5%
Protection	8.7%
Outreach & Education	10.3%
Fisheries	7.3%
Design & Development	7.1%
Land Acquisition & In Lieu of Taxes	3.3%
Private Land Services	4.3%
Resource Science	7.5%
Administration	1.5%
General Region Expenditures	2.8%
Total Cash Disbursements	$155,556,500

Missouri State Budget



Health & Social Services	38.7%
Education	28.5%
Government Services	20.0%
Transportation	9.0%
Natural & Economic Resources	3.1%
Conservation	**0.7%**
Total State Budget	$19,797,280,324

Missouri State Constitutional Language

Section 40(a). Conservation commission, members, qualifications, terms, how appointed-duties of commission-expenses of members.—The control, management, restoration, conservation and regulation of the bird, fish, game, forestry and all wildlife resources of the state, including hatcheries, sanctuaries, refuges, reservations and all other property owned, acquired or used for such purposes and the acquisition and establishment thereof, and the administration of all laws pertaining thereto, shall be vested in a conservation commission consisting of four members appointed by the governor, by and with the advice of and consent of the senate, not more than two of whom shall be of the same political party. The members shall have knowledge of and interest in wildlife conservation. The members shall hold office for terms of six years beginning on the first day of July of consecutive odd years. Two of the terms shall be concurrent; one shall begin two years before and one two years after the concurrent terms. If the governor fails to fill a vacancy within thirty days, the remaining members shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term. The members shall receive no salary or other compensation for their services as members, but shall receive their necessary traveling and other expenses incurred while actually engaged in the discharge of their official duties.

Source: Const. of 1875, Art. XIV, Sec. 16 (as adopted November 3, 1936). (Amended August 8, 1972)

Section 40(b). Incumbent members.—The members of the present conservation commission shall serve out the terms for which they were appointed, with all their powers and duties.

Section 41. Acquisition of property-eminent domain.—The commission may acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise, all property necessary, useful or convenient for its purposes, and shall exercise the right of eminent domain as provided by law for the highway commission.

Source: Const. of 1875, Art. XIV, Sec. 16.

Section 42. Director of conservation and personnel of commission.—The commission shall appoint a director of conservation who, with its approval, shall appoint the assistants and other employees deemed necessary by the commission. The commission shall fix the qualifications and salaries of the director and all appointees and employees, and none of its members shall be an appointee or employee.

Source: Const. of 1875, Art. XIV, Sec. 16.

Section 43(a). Sales tax, use for conservation purposes.—For the purpose of providing additional moneys to be expended and used by the conservation commission, department of conservation, for the control, management, restoration, conservation and regulation of the bird, fish, game, forestry and wildlife resources of the state, including the purchase or other acquisition of property for said purposes, and for the administration of the laws pertaining thereto, an additional sales tax of one-eighth of one percent is hereby levied and imposed upon all sellers for the privilege of selling tangible personal property or rendering taxable services at retail in this state upon the sales and services which now are or hereafter are listed and set forth in, and, except as to the amount of tax, subject to the provisions of and to be collected as provided in the "Sales Tax Law" and subject to the rules and regulations promulgated in connection therewith; and an additional use tax of one-eighth of one percent is levied and imposed for the privilege of storing, using or consuming within this state any article of tangible personal property as set forth and provided in the "Compensating Use Tax Law" and, except as to the amount of the tax, subject to the provisions of and to be collected as provided in the "Compensating Use Tax Law" and subject to the rules and regulations promulgated in connection therewith.

(Adopted November 2, 1976)

Section 43(b). Use of revenue and funds of conservation commission.—The moneys arising from the additional sales and use taxes provided for in section 43(a) hereof and all fees, moneys or funds arising from the operation and transactions of the conservation commission, department of conservation, and from the application and the administration of the laws and regulations pertaining to the bird, fish, game, forestry and wildlife resources of the state and from the sale of property used for said purposes, shall be expended and used by the conservation commission, department of conservation, for the control, management, restoration, conservation and regulation of bird, fish, game, forestry and wildlife resources of the state, including the purchase or other acquisition of property for said purposes, and for the administration of the laws pertaining thereto, and for no other purpose. The moneys and funds of the

conservation commission arising from the additional sales and use taxes provided for in S 43(a) hereof shall also be used by the conservation commission, department of conservation, to make payments to counties for the unimproved value of land for distribution to the appropriate political subdivisions as payment in lieu of real property taxes for privately owned land acquired by the commission after July 1, 1977, and for land classified as forest cropland in the forest cropland program administered by the department of conservation in such amounts as may be determined by the conservation commission, but in no event shall amount determined be less than the property tax being paid at the time of purchase of acquired lands.

Source: Const. of 1875, Art. XIV, Sec. 16. (Amended November 2, 1976) (Amended November 4, 1980)

Section 43(c). Effective date-self-enforceability.—The effective date of this amendment shall be July 1, 1977. All laws inconsistent with this amendment shall no longer remain in full force and effect after July 1, 1977. All of the provisions of sections 43(a)–(c) shall be self-enforcing except that the general assembly shall adjust brackets for the collection of the sales and use taxes.

(Adopted November 2, 1976)

Section 44. Self-enforceability-enabling clause-repealing clause.—Sections 40–43, inclusive, of this article shall be self-enforcing, and laws not inconsistent therewith may be enacted in aid thereof. All existing laws inconsistent with this article shall no longer remain in force or effect.

Source: Const. of 1875, Art. XIV, Sec. 16

Section 45. Rules and regulations-filing-review.—The rules and regulations of the commission not relating to its organization and internal management shall become effective not less than ten days after being filed with the secretary of state as provided in section 16 of this article, and such final rules and regulations affecting private rights as are judicial or quasi-judicial in nature shall be subject to the judicial review provided in section 22 of article V.

Section 46. Distribution of rules and regulations.—The commission shall supply to all persons on request, printed copies of its rules and regulations not relating to organization or internal management.

The Conservation Commission and Director

In 1936, the people of Missouri, through the initiative petition process, placed on the ballot and passed language that would create a non-political Conservation Commission with broad authority. The Conservation Commission is vested by the state constitution with responsibility for proper management of the state's fish, forest, and wildlife resources. The four Conservation Commissioners are appointed by the Governor. Their term of office is six years. The Commission is also responsible for hiring the Director.



Mr. Stephen Bradford
Cape Girardeau
Term: 7/27/2001 to 6/30/2007
Party Affiliation: Democrat



Mr. William F. McGeehan
Marshfield
Term: 7/11/2005 to 6/30/2011
Party Affiliation: Republican



Ms. Cynthia Metcalfe
Saint Louis
Term: 7/27/2001 to 6/30/2007
Party Affiliation: Democrat



Mr. Lowell Mohler
Jefferson City
Term: 7/09/2003 to 6/30/2009
Party Affiliation: Republican

Director



Mr. John Hoskins

Our Mission

To protect and manage the fish, forest, and wildlife resources of the state; to serve the public and facilitate their participation in resource management activities; and to provide opportunity for all citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about fish, forest, and wildlife resources.

Conservation at a Glance

- ▲ We Listen to Missourians
- ▲ What Missourians Say About Conservation
- ▲ The Economics of Conservation in Missouri
- ▲ Wildlife Recreation
- ▲ Hunting and Fishing
- ▲ Forestry and Wood Products

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION



We Listen to Missourians

The Missouri Department of Conservation believes that all Missouri citizens are important and we want to listen and act to earn their trust. Our job is to listen, understand, and personally deliver programs and services in a manner that benefits all Missourians and the fish, forest, and wildlife resources in Missouri.

November 2005

To accomplish our mission we must listen to Missourians. We do this in a variety of ways.

- The Conservation Commission meets regularly and anyone may contact the Conservation Commission with comments or request to appear at a Commission meeting.
- The Director of the Conservation Department may be personally contacted at Department headquarters in Jefferson City, by telephone, or electronic mail.
- The Department Ombudsman works with citizens to resolve conflicts and answers a wide variety of questions by mail, telephone, and electronic mail.
- The Department conducts a wide variety of statistically accountable mail surveys, telephone surveys, and focus groups to determine the opinions and attitudes of Missourians about conservation and the Department of Conservation. The Department has conducted attitude, opinion, satisfaction, and participation surveys for over 25 years.
- The Department has eight regional service centers with staff available to assist Missourians with their conservation requests and needs.
- The Department's monthly magazine, free to Missourians that request it, includes a letter to the editor section and an "Ask the Ombudsman" column.
- The Department maintains an extensive internet web page with conservation information, how to contact the Department, and an online comment form.
- The Department conducts frequent public forums to obtain interactive feedback from all Missourians at locations throughout the state.
- Department regulations are formed and discussed in a public setting that invites citizen participation.



What Missourians Say About Conservation

The majority of Missourians feel the Department of Conservation is doing an excellent or good job of providing services to themselves (64%), their families (63%), the community (61%), and the state (67%). Most Missourians say they are either very familiar (21%) or somewhat familiar (65%) with the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Information from the Missouri Department of Conservation and the 2003 Conservation Opinion Survey, University of Missouri.

November 2005

- Most Missourians are either very interested (56%) or somewhat interested (37%) in Missouri's fish, forests and wildlife.
- Most Missourians (73%) agree that land should be acquired for fish, forest, and wildlife conservation.
- Most Missourians (79%) agree that the Department of Conservation should make an effort to restore animals that once lived or are currently very rare in the state.
- Most Missourians (82%) agree that the Department of Conservation should help private landowners who want to restore native communities of plants and animals.
- Almost all Missourians (88%) approve of hunting for food.
- About one-half of Missourians (51%) approve of cutting down trees to make lumber, furniture, or other wood products.
- The majority of Missourians (55%) agree that trapping is OK as long as it is regulated.
- Missourians are outdoor-oriented, with households having one or more participants that enjoy watching television or outdoor programs (82%), read about nature and wildlife (76%), feed birds and wildlife at home (64%), garden (66%), use Conservation Areas (62%), fish (58%), go boating (40%), hunt (34%), target shoot (37%), or volunteer in environmental or conservation groups (15%).
- Time is mentioned as the biggest obstacle to the enjoyment of outdoor activities by Missourians.
- Missourians are a uniquely outdoor-oriented citizenry, with a majority preferring outdoor recreational activities (56%) over reading or watching TV (34%), or structured sports (9%).

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION



The Economics of Conservation in Missouri

The amount of state sales tax revenue generated from fish, forest, and wildlife recreation spending is about the same amount of sales tax revenue received by the Department of Conservation from the one-eighth of one percent Conservation Sales Tax–

Conservation pays its way in Missouri.

Information from the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Missouri Forest Products Association, and the 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation—Conducted by the United States Bureau of Census for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. November 2005

- The Department of Conservation paid almost one million dollars ($994,540.05) in 2004 from the Conservation Sales Tax to Missouri counties in Forest Cropland payments, Levee and Drainage District payments, and In-Lieu-of-Property-Tax payments.
- The forestry and wood products industry in Missouri is an over 4.4 billion dollar activity and supports 32,250 jobs.
- Missourians and non-residents spend over one and one-half billion dollars ($1,658,041,238.00) annually related to fish, forest, and wildlife recreation. These expenditures generate 3.3 billion dollars annually of business revenue in Missouri.
- The annual expenditures related to fish, forest, and wildlife recreation support 29,727 jobs in Missouri.
- Fish, forest, and wildlife recreation spending generates annually 79 million dollars of state sales tax revenue.
- In Missouri, 2.5 million residents and nonresidents, aged 16 years and older, participated in fishing, hunting, or wildlife-associated recreation.
- Resident anglers spend over 11 million days afield (11,308,772), resident hunters over six million (6,224,714), and resident wildlife-watchers nearly 11 million (10,937,486) in Missouri. Nonresident anglers add almost two million days (1,970,055), nonresident hunters one-third of a million (380,887), and nonresident wildlife-watchers over one and one-half million (1,510,458).
- Deer hunters in Missouri (372,726) spend over three and three-quarter million days afield and spend, on average, $16.27 each day. Resident deer hunters spend $10.60 per day for an annual total of $613.74 per person, which results in an overall total of over two million ($200,377,454.00) annually. Non-resident deer hunters spend $139.22 per day for an annual total of $600.77 per person, which results in an overall total of over 27 million ($27,779,087.00).
- Deer hunting in Missouri generates 445 million dollars of business activity annually. This results in nearly 9 million in state sales tax revenue and almost four million of state income tax revenue.
- Deer hunting expenditures annually support over 4,162 jobs in Missouri.

MISSOURI *wildlife recreation*

Wildlife-Watchers	1,826,000
Total Expenditures	$449 million
Total Jobs Supported	7,850
Earnings from Expenditures	$200.1 million
State Tax Revenue	$22.1 million
Sales & Income Tax Revenue	$30 million
Total Business-Generated Revenue	$937.8 million



STATE TAX REVENUE INFORMATION

Wildlife-watchers in Missouri annually pay more than $30 million in state sales and income taxes.

JOBS

Wildlife-watching activities in Missouri support more than 7,850 jobs each year.



TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

- In Missouri, adults involved in wildlife-associated recreation would fill Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City more than 23 times.
- Missourians are outdoor-oriented—8 of 10 feed birds and wildlife at their homes and 6 of 10 use Department of Conservation areas.
- The amount of sales tax revenue generated by fish, forest, and wildlife recreation is about the same amount of sales tax received by the Department of Conservation from the one-eighth cent sales tax—in other words, conservation pays its way in Missouri.



CONSERVATION PAYS ITS WAY IN MISSOURI

November 2005

Information from the Missouri Department of Conservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

MISSOURI *hunting and fishing*

Hunters	489,000
Anglers	1,215,000
Total Expenditures	$1.209 billion
Total Jobs Supported	21,877
Earnings from Expenditures	$531 million
State Sales Tax Revenue	$57 million
Sales and Income Tax Revenue	$77 million
Total Business-Generated Revenue	$2.415 billion

STATE TAX REVENUE INFORMATION

Hunters and anglers in Missouri annually generate $77 million in state sales and income taxes.

JOBS

Hunters and anglers support more than 21,877 jobs each year.

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

- More Missourians hunt or fish than the number who attend St. Louis Rams or Kansas City Chiefs games.
- One of every four Missouri residents hunts or fishes.
- Annual spending by hunters and anglers is more than the cash receipts for cattle production, the state's most valuable agricultural commodity.
- The amount of sales tax revenue generated by fish, forest, and wildlife recreation is about the same amount of sales tax received by the Department of Conservation from the one-eighth cent sales tax—in other words, conservation pays its way in Missouri.

CONSERVATION PAYS ITS WAY IN MISSOURI

Information from the Missouri Department of Conservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

November 2005







MISSOURI

forestry and wood products

Total Forested Acres	14 million
Privately Owned Acres	85 percent
Publicly Owned Acres	15 percent
Wood-Using Industry Dollars	$4.43 billion
Total Jobs Supported	32,250
Wood-Using Industry Labor Income	$1.1 billion



STATE TAX REVENUE INFORMATION

Forestry and the wood-using industries in Missouri generate $54 million each year in state sales tax.

JOBS

Wood industry firms and activities in Missouri support more than 32,250 jobs each year.



TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

- Each year about 1.4 billion tree seedlings are planted.
- More than 1 million acres of forests have been added to Missouri's landscape in the last 30 years.
- Forests in Missouri are increasing faster than they are being harvested.
- Most of the forests in Missouri are privately owned.
- Forests are important to Missourians who enjoy outdoor recreation such as camping, sightseeing, watching birds, canoeing, photographing nature, hunting or fishing. Many Department of Conservation areas have campsites or are open for primitive camping.
- Forests in Missouri are essential for healthy streams, clean water, wildlife habitat and environmental stability.



CONSERVATION PAYS ITS WAY IN MISSOURI

November 2005

Information from the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri Forest Products Association.

Department Accomplishments

- ▲ Major Accomplishments
- ▲ Notable Accomplishments

Department of Conservation: Major Accomplishments

The accomplishments below affirm MDC's dedication to the three components of its mission statement:

❖ *To protect and manage the fish, forest and wildlife resources of the state*

Asked federal commission to help protect resources

Collaboration efforts resulted in a settlement agreement that asks the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to adopt specific conditions to protect the fishery and wetland resources affected by the relicensing of Bagnell Dam/AmerenUE Power generation utility. If accepted, the benefits to the natural resources and the multi-billion dollar Lake of the Ozarks tourism industry will extend for the 40-year life of the new license. At Lake of the Ozarks, fish kills will be minimized, critical habitats protected and adequate water levels retained. Water quality and habitat improvements will be provided for the 82 miles of the Osage River below Bagnell Dam.

Administered grants

In FY05, federal assistance accounted for approximately 12.3 percent or $19.1 million of MDC's $155 million revenue stream. These figures represent **all** dollars received from federal sources, not just the traditional Wildlife Restoration (WR) and Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) programs. Certainly, the WR ($5.82 million) and SFR ($5.93 million) programs represent the largest portions; however, several other federal sources also contribute a significant amount of all federal dollars for FY05.

In addition to MDC's 11 WR and SFR grants, approximately 80 other grants and cooperative agreements were administered primarily by the federal assistance staff. Moreover, during FY05, several important grants were renewed or amended—the State Wildlife grant and the Wildlife Management grant among them. Grant administration by the federal assistance staff and project leaders typically involves handling grant proposals, grant agreements, cooperative agreements, federal compliance requirements, performance and final reports, and monthly or quarterly reimbursement claims.

Made improvements for the state's fish

Blind Pony renovation: Water quality problems at Blind Pony Lake had become an impediment to raising paddlefish, sturgeon and other important fishes. The lake, built in 1967 as the water supply for Blind Pony Hatchery, had filled with sediment and nutrients throughout the years. Thanks to a $2 million-plus contribution from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, however, we were able to dredge the lake and install new water supply lines to the hatchery. The Corps had earmarked the money for improvements to benefit pallid sturgeon and other fish of importance to the Missouri River. Construction of a new sturgeon-rearing facility is in the planning stages, as well. Construction is scheduled for completion in June 2006.

Mississippi River sturgeon regulations: In cooperation with Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee, MDC established new regulations on the commercial harvest of shovelnose sturgeon in the Mississippi River. These regulations are designed to protect the sturgeon population from overharvest due to the worldwide demand for caviar. Commercial harvest of shovelnose sturgeon in the river will be available only to holders of either a Resident Shovelnose Sturgeon Commercial Harvest Permit or a Nonresident Mississippi River Shovelnose Sturgeon Commercial Harvest Permit. Either permit will cost $500. Only shovelnose sturgeon from 24 to 32 inches may be harvested and only between October 15 and May 15. The new regulations will become effective on July 1, 2006.

Fish passage and stream habitat enhancement: Working with a variety of state, federal and local partners, MDC is cooperating with county commissions and landowner watershed advisory councils to design and implement stream conservation projects. We have improved fish movement and habitat conditions

at low-water stream-crossing sites on county roads by working with county commissions. We share costs with the county, and use targeted state and federal funds to enhance fish passage by modifying existing structures that block upstream and downstream movement of fishes. Work with landowner watershed advisory councils has identified ways to manage stream and riparian habitat that balance the needs of landowners and species of conservation concern. MDC staff has helped landowners acquire grants to develop alternative watering sources, install reinforced stream crossings and riparian fencing, plant trees and control erosion in critical areas.

Managed forests and aided rural fire departments

In an effort to promote forest health and sustainability, MDC actively managed more than 53,000 acres of the state's public forestland during the year. Activities included forest inventory, improvement and harvest; tree planting; wildlife management practices; and glade and savanna management. In addition to direct resource benefits, Missouri's managed forests also provided opportunities for hiking, equestrian use, birding, hunting and numerous other activities throughout the year.

Each year MDC, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, provides grants to rural volunteer fire departments. These grants help purchase equipment and special clothing. They also fund training, which increases the fire departments' abilities to serve their communities and improve the safety of their firefighters. In FY05, 179 rural fire departments received more than $380,000 in grants.

Provided financial assistance for landowners to improve state's resources

Approximately 850 private landowners received more than $1.1 million in cost-share funds to implement beneficial habitat management practices for fish, forest and wildlife resources.

Staff developed approximately 30 partnership efforts with federal, state and non-governmental organizations. These helped leverage MDC resources to enhance technical and financial assistance and equipment support to landowners interested in improving fish, forest and wildlife resources. Some examples: assisted Missouri USDA with developing and applying $150 million in Farm Bill conservation programs; leveraged more than $300,000 with Quail Unlimited; and formed a partnership with Missouri Soil and Water Conservation districts to provide native warm-season grass drills to Missouri landowners.

Enforced resource protection laws

MDC enforces wildlife laws to maintain compliance with the Wildlife Code, as well as other state laws for the safe public use of MDC-owned lands. Conservation agents contacted 199,810 hunters and anglers in FY05 to ensure compliance and provide regulation information. During these contacts, agents noted 24,552 violations, issued 4,151 written warnings and made 7,126 arrests. This depicts a 93 percent conviction rate, which indicates high-quality work by agents and excellent public support in the area of resource law enforcement.

Research and monitoring continued to guide management

Missouri River field station established: MDC received a grant from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to fund: 1) research and monitoring on the Missouri River for the federally endangered pallid sturgeon and other bottom dwelling fishes; 2) monitoring of habitat improvements created by the Missouri River Mitigation project; and 3) management of all data collected by this field station and others in the Missouri River basin. Seven personnel were hired to staff the field station in Chillicothe for at least the next five years. Data from these studies—along the entire reach of the Missouri River from Montana to Missouri—will be used to make management recommendations for habitat improvements for pallid sturgeon and other bottom dwelling fishes.

No evidence of chronic wasting disease in Missouri's deer: All test results from deer collected in 2004 from 54 Missouri counties were negative for chronic wasting disease. Throughout the past three years, more than 20,000 deer (about 200 per county) have been tested, and all results were negative. MDC will continue to test sick deer that are submitted. The disease, which causes a degeneration of the brain in deer and elk, has not been linked to human health, and there is no evidence that it can spread to livestock. MDC has been monitoring for the disease because of the potential impacts on individual deer, deer populations and deer herd management.

Quail and grassland bird habitat management, monitoring and evaluation: MDC continues to find solutions to declining populations of northern bobwhite quail and other grassland birds. The status of quail/grassland bird populations and efforts to reduce their decline are top MDC priorities. We have restored quail and grassland bird habitats on our lands, implemented regional quail/grassland bird plans in quail/grassland bird emphasis areas, and identified prospective landowner cooperatives on private lands surrounding select MDC lands within quail focus areas.

We also have monitored quail and bird populations to aid the management evaluation process. MDC leads the recovery efforts to reverse the continued decline of the state-endangered greater prairie-chicken. Through a variety of media channels, we have informed citizens of the dramatic land use and habitat changes which have impacted quail, prairie-chicken and other grassland bird habitat in Missouri. We have formed partnerships with the Missouri Prairie Foundation, Grasslands Coalition, Quail Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, The Nature Conservancy, Osage Plains Prairie Seed Cooperative, Partners in Flight and several other conservation organizations to restore grassland/prairie habitat.

❖ *To serve the public and facilitate their participation in resource management activities*

Streamlined operations to aid resource users

Effective with permit year 2004 (March 1–Feb. 28), and to provide a greater convenience for landowners, MDC made landowner permits available at all permit vendors for the first time.

Also, we implemented a new Telecheck system, which allows hunters to check deer and turkey via phone; this eliminates the cost of gasoline for the hunter who, in past years, had to physically drive to a check station. Estimated savings from this system will be more than $500,000 a year for MDC.

Additionally, we streamlined retail operations at the George O. White State Nursery with a new computer system for ordering and selling nursery stock.

MDC paid $996,065 from the conservation sales tax in FY05 to Missouri counties in lieu of taxes, levee drainage and forest cropland payments.

State's forests benefited from citizen participation

Interest in the Missouri Forestkeepers Network continues to grow, with more than 1,576 members and 15,109 hours of volunteer service reported. Forestkeepers is a volunteer forest-health monitoring program. Its goal is a network of informed citizens who conserve, sustain and enhance Missouri's forest resources through volunteerism, advocacy and management. A program of the Missouri Department of Conservation, it is administered by Forest ReLeaf of Missouri.

Technical assistance provided to landowners

Field staff provided timely and responsive service through more than 8,000 on-site landowner visits. Staffers offered technical assistance to landowners who wanted help with habitat management plans toward achieving their land-use objectives. Staffers also answered 5,280 requests for wildlife nuisance and/or damage assistance, including 696 on-site visits. To monitor the success of the technical assistance program, MDC distributed a survey to 6,563 Missouri citizens who had received private land management assistance in the previous four years. Of the 3,229 usable responses, 87.4 percent of the respondents were either somewhat or very satisfied with the assistance they had received from MDC.

Conservation agents provide technical assistance, as well. They inspect ponds up to three acres in size for which stocking requests have been received. Agents are frequently the first contact for landowners who wish to stock larger impoundments. Many times fish stocking requests generate other discussions between landowners and conservation agents about wildlife habitat management, wildlife law enforcement cooperation and other MDC issues. During FY05, agents made contact with 20,285 citizens regarding resource management.

Helped Missourians help others through meat donation program

Share the Harvest is a program in which hunters may donate deer meat to those in need through established charitable organizations. It is coordinated by conservation agents and the Conservation Federation of Missouri. During FY05, approximately 5,161 hunters donated 275,374 pounds of venison to needy Missourians. Hunters who donate venison to the program pay for the processing and tell the processor how many pounds of meat they want to donate. Hunters who wish to donate their entire deer may receive a $35 reduction in processing costs; this amount is paid to the processor by the Missouri Conservation Federation. In some cases, local organizations provide additional funds for processing so there is no cost to hunters who wish to donate deer.

Assessed public use along the Missouri River

The Missouri River Public Use Assessment represents the first comprehensive effort of its kind to gather information about users, during a single year, for the lower, unimpounded portion of the Missouri River. Fisheries biologists, managers and a multitude of constituents and decision-makers interested in the Missouri River will use information from the completed study. This large project could not have been done without the financial and logistical support provided by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Also assisting were the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks.

From Jan. 3, 2004 through Jan. 28, 2005, 138 interview clerks collected data from Missouri River users from St. Louis to Yankton, S.D. We identified 414 public and private river access areas along the 811-mile river stretch where river users could enjoy the Missouri River. Seven of these were larger conservation areas or refuges—Columbia Bottom, Grand Pass, Worthwine Island, Thurnau and Bob Brown conservation areas, and Boyer Chute and DeSoto Bend national wildlife refuges. We have completed data entry of about 75,000 records. Analyses and reports are slated for completion in September 2006.

Lewis and Clark bicentennial commemorative events along the project's reach of the river began May 15, 2004 in St. Charles and ended Sept. 20, 2004 in St. Louis. From St. Louis to Yankton, S.D., events drew crowds along the way—from 146 visitors to Indian Cave State Park near Fall City, Neb., to 65,000 people in St. Charles.

Completed directory of conservation opportunity areas

A *Directory of Conservation Opportunity*—a compilation of conservation opportunity areas developed through Missouri's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS)—has been completed. CWCS is an approach to conservation planning and implementation that uses ecologically based assessments and existing plans to integrate conservation action for all wildlife. This renewed emphasis on ensuring the conservation of native wildlife and their habitats has been made possible through a framework of conservation partners and interested citizens. While conservation programs and activities involving MDC will continue statewide, the framework of CWCS, combined with the conservation goals of other conservation partners and fellow conservation agencies, will provide long-lasting guidance on the best places in Missouri to conserve all wildlife.

❖ *To provide opportunity for all citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about fish, forest, and wildlife resources*

Expanded hunting opportunities

MDC has expanded opportunities for the more than 25 percent of Missourians who consider themselves hunters, while maintaining hunting as a high-quality experience that is beneficial to Missouri's economy.

Virtually unlimited antlerless deer permits were available for many Missouri counties (249,518 permits issued) and many more no-cost any-deer and antlerless deer permits were made available for resident landowners (325,353 permits issued). MDC annually administrates the Managed Deer Hunt program, which provides an additional 71 hunts (5,886 permits issued) on state and federal lands. We increased urban deer-harvest opportunities to maintain deer populations at herd levels desired by home owners, while satisfying the desires of the growing number of urban hunters.

We also experimented with a new waterfowl hunting drawing procedure at two wetland conservation areas. This is an effort to provide more opportunity for waterfowl hunters, encourage novice hunters, and more fully realize harvest capacity potential. We expanded management on conservation areas to increase dove hunting opportunities. More than 65 counties provide increased dove-hunting opportunities closer to home for many hunters (69,657 migratory bird hunting permits issued). Youth-only portions of deer, turkey and waterfowl hunting seasons not only preserve values related to hunting traditions, but create opportunities for youth to develop a strong personal connection to nature (28,942 youth deer and turkey permits issued).

Moved forward with coldwater hatchery renovation plans

The Conservation Commission, at its August 2004 meeting, approved proceeding with an extensive program of coldwater hatchery system infrastructure improvements. These were outlined in a comprehensive engineering review of the five-hatchery system, which was completed in July 2004. The commission's action was intended to support goals and objectives in "A Plan for Missouri Trout Fishing," which describes how MDC will maintain diverse, high-quality trout fishing opportunities in Missouri. During FY05 a number of the top-priority projects on the list were designed and moved to the bidding phase. As a result, bidding and construction will take place for key projects at Roaring River, Shepherd of the Hills and Montauk hatcheries during FY06. We will be reimbursed for 75 percent of the project costs through Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration program grants.

Began catfish harvest management study

Large flathead and blue catfish have increased in popularity among sport anglers due to their trophy potential. Harvest rates are believed to be very high for large catfish, but little information is available on the ecology or population dynamics of these species. The recent experimental hand-fishing season highlights the need for understanding these species if we are to manage them effectively.

In 2004, we began a five-year catfish harvest management study within the reaches of seven rivers. We sampled flathead and blue catfish, and equipped them with reward tags to determine current angler effort and success. In 2007 hand fishing will be allowed on some of the streams, and in 2008 harvest restrictions will be implemented on the others.

In 2005 more than 8,000 catfish were captured and released. Changes in populations and size classes will be monitored to provide better information to manage these popular sportfish. In addition, the study will look at spawning behavior and catfish movement.

Arbor Day activities increased awareness of forest resources

MDC actively promotes the celebration of Arbor Day each spring. Forestry employees work with their schools and communities to present special programs and tree planting ceremonies. In FY05, the state forest nursery teamed up with 1,552 schools to distribute more than 120,000 free "Arbor Day" seedlings to every fourth grade student in the state.

Made progress toward goal of providing opportunities to the disabled community

MDC believes it is important to provide the opportunity for all citizens to enjoy outdoor experiences. This means we must respond to the accessibility needs of Missouri's disabled community.

An organized relationship was established with the disabled community when our Disabled Accessibility Advisory Council was created in 1994. Since that time a council of eight disabled Missouri citizens has worked with us on accessibility issues. One recommendation was that we develop an MDC area-accessibility booklet that tells Missourians about our areas that meet American Disabilities Act accessibility guidelines. We've made significant strides toward this goal during the past fiscal year by gathering information concerning accessibility of conservation areas. We developed a framework for publishing accessibility information and presented it to MDC's internal accessibility committee for review and approval.

Expanded services to diverse youth groups

We also have increased efforts to provide and coordinate outreach programs for diverse youth groups in which participation in traditional conservation activities is declining. We've targeted four areas based on their diversity: St. Louis, Kansas City, southwest Missouri and southeast Missouri. Within these areas we've facilitated several programs.

Last summer we provided conservation-related field trips three days a week to primarily minority youths at the Matthews-Dickey Boys & Girls Club summer camp in St. Louis. The University of Missouri-St. Louis was our partner in this effort.

Also, last summer, a youth conservation corps of primarily minorities worked with seven crews in southeastern Missouri and Sedalia. This program, which targets mostly at-risk youths, was facilitated by a partnership among MDC, Division of Youth Services and Missouri Mentoring.

A third partnership coordinated in southeast Missouri will encourage teens and young adults (often low-income or at-risk) to engage in conservation activities.

Expanded, improved and continued outreach/educational efforts

Through acquisition and donations, MDC acquired an additional 2,570 acres of land for public use. In May 2005 we also opened the Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center, which focuses on southeast Missouri's unique habitats and history. Indoor exhibits include a beaver lodge, swamp and Native American artifacts, while the outdoors offers ponds and a walking trail that meanders through forested hills and wetlands.

We developed a *Learning Outdoors* program to help Missouri schools educate the next generation about what it takes to keep our fish, forests and wildlife thriving. Grants for field trips, outdoor classrooms and learning kits will be integrated with teaching units tailored to meet the demands of testing, as well as the joy of learning.

A redesigned MDC website (www.missouriconservation.org) created easier access for the 2.65 million users who search for everything from hunting areas to gardening with native plants. We continued to provide information statewide to Missourians through a variety of other channels, as well: *Missouri Conservationist* magazine, hundreds of other MDC publications, newspaper articles and radio/television programs. We spoke to civic clubs, classrooms, church groups and other organizations. We also provided workshops to educators, private landowners and others. Additionally, we gave on-site assistance to landowners to help them manage fish, forest and wildlife resources on their lands.

Department of Conservation: Notable Accomplishments

The accomplishments below affirm MDC's dedication to the three components of its mission statement:

❖ *To protect and manage the fish, forest and wildlife resources of the state*

Coordinated and implemented inter- and intra-state, ecosystem-based management

Staff represented the state's fish, forest and wildlife interests in various inter-state working groups to implement ecosystem-based management necessary for the conservation and enhancement of natural and recreational resources of the Missouri, Mississippi and White rivers. Staff helped direct the implementation of $19 million available through the Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project, $17.5 million available through the Mississippi River Environmental Management Program and $11 million available for planning efforts through the proposed Mississippi River Navigation and Ecosystem Restoration Plan.

The agency participated in planning efforts to form a new inter-state, inter-agency Mississippi River council that would provide input to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service programs on the Mississippi River, including the proposed 15-year, $1.46-billion ecosystem-restoration plan for the river.

MDC staff participated in the intra-state Wetlands Bank Mitigation Review Team (initiated by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) to apply nationally developed guidelines to Missouri, building in both flexibility and consistency among the five Army Corps Regulatory districts.

Staff responded to outside requests for information regarding Missouri's species and communities of conservation concern, primarily from those seeking to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Water Act and other federal and state laws, rules, and regulations.

Staff coordinated MDC's participation and response to federal and state environmental review processes, such as National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act. Additionally, necessary permits and clearances for all MDC construction and resource restoration activities were obtained to comply with state and federal environmental laws and the National Historic Preservation Act.

Enabled conservation agents to communicate with Missouri Highway Patrol

MDC received a Homeland Security Grant, which allowed Information Technology Section (IT) to purchase 50 dual band radios. These enable conservation agents to communicate directly with highway patrol.

Maintained and improved fish management and provided technical guidance to other public agencies

Public lake and stream management: MDC manages 897 lakes and 40 stream management areas for public fishing. Management efforts include sampling of fish populations, establishing special fishing regulations, surveying anglers and assessing and improving aquatic habitat and stocking fish.

Fish production: MDC fish hatcheries produced about 8.4 million fish during the production year ending in FY05. About 1.44 million rainbow trout and 30,000 brown trout were produced at Missouri's five coldwater hatcheries and stocked in Missouri's four trout parks, Lake Taneycomo, winter trout areas and in 11 other coldwater streams managed for public trout fishing. Warm-water hatcheries produced 6.93 million fish of 14 different species that were stocked in 304 public lakes and six stream areas to sustain quality public fishing.

Trout plan implementation: A new trout fishery was established on Hickory Creek in Neosho this year. This new area will be stocked regularly with rainbow trout and open to statewide regulations through most of the year and will also feature a winter catch-and-release trout fishing season. A new winter-trout

fishery was also established at Kiwanis Lake in Mexico, bringing the total to four new winter fisheries that have been established in cooperation with the cities of Columbia, Jackson, Jefferson City and Mexico. In addition, MDC increased trout fishing opportunities for the public by acquiring approximately two-thirds of a mile of stream frontage within the Barren Fork Creek Blue Ribbon Trout Area.

Lake Taneycomo: Lake Taneycomo continues to provide excellent trout fishing. The 20-inch minimum length limit on brown trout has resulted in good numbers of large brown trout, including a new state record weighing in at 27 pounds, 10 ounces. In the three-mile reach between Table Rock Dam and the mouth of Fall Creek, special regulations have resulted in significant improvement in the rainbow trout population. The percentage of rainbow trout greater than 13 inches in this reach has increased from nine percent in March of 1997 to 51 percent in August of 2005. Below the mouth of Fall Creek, anglers will find good numbers of stocked rainbow trout and the occasional trophy-sized brown trout. A new stocking boat helps to maintain good fishing in Lake Taneycomo by distributing trout throughout much of the lake. Trout are loaded into a large, aerated tank on the new 36-foot-long boat and gradually released as the boat moves down the lake. Monthly trout stockings in Lake Taneycomo range from 25,000 to 80,000 and total 700,000 annually. MDC staff designed the new boat to efficiently distribute these trout and maintain quality fishing.

Technical guidance to other public agencies: MDC staff provided 692 environmental reviews of project proposals and permit applications by federal, state and private entities and provided input on environmental regulations and enforcement policies as requested. Staff also investigated 48 fish kills and pollution incidents on public waters and reported 29 apparent violations of state and federal environmental regulations to the appropriate agencies. Staff also responded to 358 requests for technical information and guidance on federal, state and local entities that manage public lands, waters and facilities that involve aquatic resources and public fishing.

Walleye Initiative: Implementation of the Missouri Walleye Initiative began in 1997. In 2000, Lost Valley Hatchery opened and began producing more walleyes to stock Missouri's priority walleye waters. Stockton Lake is an example of a priority water where a combination of regular stocking and a reduced minimum size limit have helped to improve walleye fishing and create more harvest opportunities. Walleye anglers at Stockton have enjoyed a ten-fold increase in harvest rate compared to the late 1990s and we continue to receive many positive comments regarding our enhanced walleye management efforts. Stockton Lake is one of several walleye waters where the Missouri Walleye Initiative is helping to improve walleye angling.

Panfish management: Due to the high catch rate of small fish, three popular fisheries in southeast Missouri are not realizing their potential to produce top-quality panfishing. Regulations were proposed and approved that should result in larger crappie and bluegill. These regulations (effective March 1, 2006) include a 9-inch minimum length limit on crappie at Lake Wappapello, a 9-inch minimum/15 daily limit on crappie at Robert DeLaney Lake, and an 8-inch minimum/10 daily limit on bluegill in the ponds at General Watkins Conservation Area.

Aided communities and prepared private forest stewardship plans

As field inventories are completed, staff continues to build the forest inventory spatial database of MDC-managed lands, adding 34,581 acres in FY05. This database provides the foundation on which forest management decisions are made and activities are tracked over the life of the forest stand.

The *Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM)* program provided grants totaling over $315,000 to 41 Missouri communities in FY05. This program recognizes the importance of sustainable, locally driven community tree care programs and provides cost-share for projects that help develop or strengthen community forestry programs. Activities such as hiring city foresters, conducting tree inventories, identifying and managing risk trees, and tree-ordinance development are eligible for funding.

During FY05, over $262,000 has been paid to private landowners who have completed forestry projects through the federal Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP). A total of 8,785 acres of private forestland have been affected with FLEP funds during the lifespan of this program.

The Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) is a joint effort between the U.S. Forest Service and State Forestry agencies. It is designed to promote and facilitate active management by private landowners of their forested lands and related resources. During FY05, MDC foresters prepared 172 stewardship plans, covering 28,634 acres for Missouri private forest landowners. Various state and federal cost-share programs allowed for implementation of many of the management activities recommended in these plans.

Forestry continued development of a methodology involving MDC personnel to facilitate the scheduling and tracking of resource-management activities on private lands. The system will increase efficiency in providing resource-management assistance to Missouri's private landowners and also provide a way to communicate the extent of MDC employees' involvement with private landowners around the state.

Worked with NRCS to obligate millions in federal funding to improve privately owned wetlands and grasslands, including quail habitat

Since 1992, MDC has assisted the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in obligating over $136 million to restore more than 105,000 acres of wetlands back into the agricultural landscape. In FY05, wetland services biologists assisted the NRCS with enrolling 53 individuals representing 6,768 acres into the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and obligating $11.7 million towards restoring wetlands on these tracts. Staff has assisted NRCS in restoring wetland functions and values on 76 WRP easements encompassing 6,975 acres.

MDC provided financial assistance for the implementation of habitat-management practices targeting bobwhite quail, grassland songbirds and related early successional species on over 10,700 acres of private land. MDC implemented a $138,000 Conservation Partnership Initiative grant from NRCS to restore bobwhite quail populations in targeted geographies. Staff provided leadership in the development of Quail and Grassland Bird Plans in each of the eight MDC regions.

Among other wildlife damage issues, the Wildlife Damage Program coordinated efforts under a special federal permit to control urban giant Canada goose populations by destroying 4,040 eggs and euthanizing or relocating 758 geese. This program also maintains relations and partnerships with agencies and organizations concerning wildlife damage issues including the Missouri Trappers Association, USDA/APHIS–Wildlife Services, Missouri Department of Agriculture, Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the U. S. Forest Service.

MDC staff helped NRCS develop program policies for the Conservation Security Program, resulting in the contracting of 8,000 to 10,000 acres of native grass field borders and thousands of acres of cropfield reflooding. We also assisted NRCS with program-policy development and technical assistance for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, resulting in over $1.5 million in forest, fish and wildlife developments on private lands. We assisted the Farm Services Agency with program-policy development and promotion and provided technical assistance to restore 5,000 acres of native grass field borders on 500 properties in the new Conservation Reserve Program practice Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds. Staff negotiated a $600,000 reimbursement from NRCS for MDC assistance with Farm Bill program delivery.

Brought numerous poachers and code-violators to justice

Special Investigations Unit: We reported three major accomplishments in the past fiscal year.

- "Operation Homestead" was a coordinated effort between special investigators from Missouri and Iowa to identify, electronically, individuals who were claiming residency and buying resident permits from both states. At the conclusion of the initial investigation, over 200 personal contacts were made resulting in excess of 200 citations and more than $36,000 in fines and court costs.
- Several investigations involving the illegal importation of protected species, unlicensed taxidermists and the illegal sale of native reptiles and amphibians were concluded. One of the cases involving alligator snappers, bullfrog tadpoles and endangered Blanding's turtles has been turned over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service due to extensive inter-state violations.
- Another large accomplishment for the SI unit was the documentation of illegal hog releases and related activities in Missouri. The SI unit documented the illegal release of hogs for paid hunts on public land and the illegal sale of hogs for release on public land. A combined force of MDC protection personnel, U. S. Forest Service, Missouri Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Agriculture shut down and charged three separate groups of individuals with numerous illegal hog-related offenses.

Operation Game Thief/Forest Arson: This program continues to be a successful means for anonymous callers to report poaching and also be eligible for a reward. Last year, Operation Game Thief (OGT) produced 78 convictions from court cases completed from 579 telephone calls and rewards totaling $3,450. The Cole County Sheriff's Department is contracted to answer the OGT line during nonbusiness hours. This increases efficiency and improves the quality of information on violation reports.

Revocations–Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact: Missouri is a participating state in the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact. The Compact is a legal organization of the 21 state wildlife agencies that agree to honor each other's revocations/suspensions of hunting, fishing and trapping privileges for wildlife-related violations. During FY05, 1,179 people from other states had their privileges revoked in Missouri through provisions of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, and 110 people were suspended by the Conservation Commission in Missouri and submitted to IWVC. Participation in the Compact also benefits Missourians who travel to other Compact-member states for hunting and fishing activities. If found in violation, they may be given the opportunity to resolve the citation by mail rather than being required to post a bond before leaving the member state. They are subject to revocation by all Compact states if the citation is ignored.

Revocations–child support: State law mandates that we suspend privileges for people who are delinquent on child support payments. During FY05, 801 people lost their privileges for failure to comply with child-support laws.

Designed and implemented research for improved ecosystem management statewide

Long-term Ozark forest ecosystem study: The 2004 annual meeting of MOFEP principal investigators was held on November 29–30, 2004, at the Range Nature Center in Jefferson City, Missouri. The objective of this meeting was to bring together MOFEP Principal Investigators (PIs) to discuss key research findings and future plans. Forty-two PIs attended the meeting, including scientists, administrators, and resource managers from Central Methodist University, Missouri Department of Conservation, University of Missouri-Columbia, University of Missouri-St. Louis, University of Toledo, University of Washington, and USDA Forest Service North Central Research Station. Twenty-one papers were presented over the two days, and two discussion sessions were held on each of the two days. Several key issues were addressed during the meeting, including improved integration of MOFEP studies, transition from one PI to another, guidelines for access to MOFEP data and improved MOFEP visibility. MOFEP is a long-term, landscape-scale experimental study of the impacts of even-aged and uneven-aged management on Ozark forest flora and fauna.

Effectiveness of patch/burn grazing study: The effects of patch-burn grazing on vegetation structure were evaluated on a 64.8-ha (160-acre) segment of Taberville Prairie Conservation Area after three years of season-long grazing. Patch-burn is a management technique that involves burning, then grazing patches of grassland within a pasture or paddock. We suspect that the conditions created by patch-burn grazing represent more favorable brood-rearing habitat for precocial birds, such as greater prairie-chickens, than those resulting from spring burning alone. Despite the fact that our data were collected after the growing season, we believe they are indicative of the vegetation structure that can be expected from patch-burn grazing and may benefit species that require a diversity of vegetation structural types. Further evaluations are in progress.

The search for better streambank erosion-control methods: Staff recently completed a literature review of potential techniques for dealing with excessive streambank erosion. Techniques to slow excessive erosion and protect streambanks are effective when applied appropriately in Missouri, but they have limitations that prevent them from being useful in all situations. The literature review found that Missouri managers have attempted to apply most of the techniques that other states are using. In addition, the untried techniques all fail to address the limitations of the techniques currently being used in Missouri. The next step in this project will be selecting potential techniques for evaluation. Prior to evaluating any technique, a review process will be conducted to determine that the technique is based on sound

hydrologic and geomorphologic principles. Techniques that make it through the review process will be tested and evaluated on MDC areas. Once a technique has been evaluated and determined to be effective, it will be added to the list of techniques that we can use to help landowners deal with erosion problems.

A 16-year study of effects of ripping on shortleaf pine:

Restoration of shortleaf pine in its former natural range is a top priority in Missouri. Restoration of shortleaf pine in the Missouri Ozarks presents numerous challenges because soils are rocky and contain hardpans, and hardwood vegetation competes with the planted seedlings. Some form of site preparation is essential for successfully establishing shortleaf pine on these sites. Ripping is an alternative mechanical site preparation method for regenerating shortleaf. We present results of a ripping study established by the Missouri Department of Conservation in March 1988 at the Logan Creek Conservation Area. The objective of the study was to evaluate the effects of ripping on survival, height, diameter, volume, crown spread and free-to-grow status of planted shortleaf pine seedlings. Results suggest that benefits of ripping are of a minor, short-term nature. This study highlights the importance of long-term monitoring of research studies because results at a young age may not reflect those at more mature ages. The results provide base-line data for future studies that will investigate effects of different site preparation methods on survival and growth of shortleaf pine in Missouri.

2004 Missouri hellbender surveys: Surveys for Ozark and eastern hellbenders were conducted during August, September and October 2004 in the upper North Fork River, upper Eleven Point River, lower Current River, upper Black River, upper Gasconade River, entire Big Piney River, and lower Huzzah and Courtois creeks. Hellbenders are known to occur in all these rivers, but the purpose of this study was to survey selected reaches within U.S. Forest Service boundaries where hellbender information is limited. We found 33 hellbenders, including 19 in the Big Piney River and 14 in the Current River. No hellbenders were observed in any of the other river surveys. Historical data for the Big Piney River show that surveyors observed about 42 hellbenders per sampling day in the 1980s but fewer than 2 per sampling day this year. To our surprise, a large amount of suitable hellbender habitat occurred on the lower Current River. On this 38.5-mile survey area we observed hellbenders at eight locations not previously known, but only 1 hellbender was observed at each of these sites. In addition, hellbenders in the Current River showed a higher frequency of abnormalities (missing toes, legs, eyes, etc.) and more severe abnormalities compared to the Big Piney River (75 percent and 21 percent of individuals, respectively). While searching for hellbenders, we documented numerous locations for another species of concern, spectaclecase mussels, in the Gasconade and Big Piney rivers.

Missouri's role in the National Mourning Dove Reward Band Study and Dove Wing Survey Update: With the enthusiastic help of Wildlife Division field staff, Missouri was able to fulfill its role in the national mourning dove reward-band study. This past summer 748 adult and 835 immature mourning doves were captured and banded on 13 conservation areas scattered around the state. With the data from the reward bands, we will be able to calculate band-reporting rates, which in turn will be used to calculate harvest rates. These harvest rates will be used in combination with harvest estimates from a national hunter survey program to generate population growth rates. Preliminary results show that modern dove banding efforts will play an expanding future role in mourning dove harvest management across North America.

Regaining control of Canada goose population: In Missouri, Canada goose-control efforts are necessary because the population increased about 155 percent from 1993 to 2000 (from 30,300 to more than 77,000, respectively) and there appeared to be no end in sight to the increase. To deal with this acute increase, hunting regulations were implemented to allow larger bag limits and more days to harvest giant Canada geese before migrants arrive. Steps have also been taken to allow landowners more flexibility in dealing with conflicts with geese. These include permits for treating nests to prevent eggs from hatching (which reduces population growth) and, in some instances, taking unprecedented steps in urban areas to capture and remove adult birds from the population. In some communities, private groups have pitched in to help control goose problems, and other people have responded to the demand by offering commer-

cial "goose control" services. However, since 2000, the estimate for the number of Canada geese surveyed in Missouri during the spring breeding period has stabilized at about 65,000 or less. Whether this is the result of increased hunting mortality, animal damage control efforts or other unidentified factors is unknown, but it is encouraging that the population is no longer increasing at such a high rate. The challenge now will be to strive for desirable numbers and distribution of birds, while maintaining the ability to alleviate local conflicts between geese and people.

Terrestrial and aquatic resource assessments: Resource Science staff worked with field staff and the Missouri Resource Assessment Partnership to produce ecologically based assessments of aquatic and terrestrial resources. The process utilized an ecological framework to identify appropriate conservation targets, and numerous GIS layers to assist local experts in identifying Conservation Opportunity Areas. The result is a network of landscapes and small watersheds that contain a high percentage of Missouri's biodiversity. This information was incorporated into the Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy and will be available for regional operational planning.

Changes in shovelnose sturgeon abundance: Sturgeon stocks worldwide are threatened because of habitat destruction, over-harvest and the high demand for caviar. From 1997 through 2004, we sampled portions of the Middle Mississippi River (MMR between confluences of the Ohio and Missouri Rivers) to determine the status of sturgeon at over-wintering areas. There was a marked decline in shovelnose sturgeon catch from 1997 to 2002. From 1998 to 2001, the pounds of harvested on the Mississippi River by Missouri commercial fishermen increased over 1000 percent. During the same period, harvest of the federally endangered pallid sturgeon was documented and harvest of the state-endangered lake sturgeon was suspected in other states. Several studies are ongoing to determine stock assessment using population estimation techniques to better monitor sturgeon species within the Mississippi River. Basin-wide standardized monitoring will be instrumental and essential for tracking long-term effects of the caviar market on Mississippi River sturgeon species.

New directions for stream conservation in Missouri: In May 2004, the report "Primary Agents of Change in Missouri Stream Systems: Challenges and Opportunities" was presented to Department leadership. The report is a comprehensive review of issues affecting stream conservation in Missouri and presents an overview of future opportunities and challenges. In July 2004, we formed MDC's Streams Committee to develop a set of recommendations that would provide policy makers with an understanding of stream conservation needs looming on the horizon. The Streams Committee's first step was to identify and compile a review of all MDC's current stream-related accomplishments. The committee submitted the summary in January 2005, and then it identified new directions for stream conservation. The committee concluded that MDC should accelerate stream conservation with a two-pronged approach. One prong is to fully establish the proper foundation for successful stream conservation. This includes fully adopting the watershed approach throughout MDC, enhancing our use of collaboration, initiating a new emphasis on stream-conservation education, and further committing to stream conservation on Department-owned lands. The second prong is to identify and address needs within seven stream-conservation topics: the rural landscape, the urban landscape, Department-owned lands, stream channel modifications, recreation and resource use, information and education and policy needs. A well-educated public will make better land-management and water-use decisions and will have the political will to support effective stream stewardship. Implementation of the recommendations herein will showcase MDC's leadership role in public-lands stewardship with minimal effects on budgets and staff time. A periodic review of performance accomplishments will be necessary to track success and identify when changes in direction are needed.

Established native plant community management, initiated wetland rehabilitation, coordinated invasive species control

Natural community management: MDC programs and actions emphasize the restoration and management of productive natural communities that benefit the full range of MDC programs and Missouri landscapes. Active habitat management occurred on 22,000 acres of grassland/prairie, 37,300 acres of marsh/wetlands, 3,500 acres of glades, 5,800 acres of forest, 11,200 acres of savannas and 14,700 acres of old field, and 64 miles of edge was enhanced or created. More than 81,000 trees were planted on MDC

areas. Important components of area management activities include crop land management (66,500 acres) for certain wildlife species, as well as timber harvest to achieve desired vegetative conditions and restore natural communities and/or demonstrate appropriate stewardship activities. Through the Missouri Natural Areas Program, 84 Natural Areas (29,153 acres) on MDC lands have been designated as models for natural community restoration.

Through a cooperative agreement with the Missouri Department of Transportation, MDC facilitated the conversion of 365 acres of highway right-of-way from introduced, cool-season grasses to a diverse mixture of native warm-season grasses, forbs and legumes.

Golden Anniversary Wetland Initiative: An interdisciplinary team of wetland experts has completed the initial planning stages for rehabilitating five of MDC's oldest wetland management areas (Fountain Grove, Duck Creek, Montrose, Schell Osage, Ted Shanks). Some areas have replaced 50-year-old levees, pipes, pumps, flood valves and other structures critical to managing wetlands. The team has also completed planning for additional rehabilitation of management structures. Further, it has completed a diverse assemblage of conservation partnerships necessary to secure federal grants. MDC teamed up with Ducks Unlimited to successfully secure two large North American Wetland Conservation Act grants for wetland restoration.

Invasive species coordination: MDC has hired an Invasive Species Coordinator to integrate invasive and exotic species control into agency wildlife diversity programs. Staff has completed planning to address threats to aquatic species, as well as all varieties of native terrestrial plants and animals. Internal and external partners interested in invasive species control have been identified. Development of annual training for industry, the public, partners and agency personnel related to recognizing and reporting invasive species has begun. Funding sources that will help further the goals of invasive species prevention and control in Missouri have been identified.

❖ *To serve the public and facilitate their participation in resource management activities*

Identified, explored and tracked public and staff opinions and needs

Compiled, interpreted and applied economic, demographic, public opinion, participation and human dimensions survey information to provide the Conservation Commission and MDC staff with insight into Missourians' expectations and satisfaction with the state's fish, forest and wildlife management. Assisted MDC staff in conducting eight public "conservation forum" meetings. Presented results of a Conservation Opinion Survey conducted by the University of Missouri to the Conservation Commission. Designed and conducted a request by the Director to survey employees and conservation-minded individuals for new ideas to accomplish and communicate conservation efforts.

Increased IT staff and support

Responding to increasing needs for computer and technology support in field operations, Information Technology (IT) has assigned an additional staffer to field operations. This brings the total computer support staff located in field offices to five, thus allowing enhanced technology support to field operations. Assigning more local computer support staff allows other field staff to spend their time and efforts focused on resource-management activities.

Provided lake and stream technical guidance and training; increased access to streams and lakes

Landowner services: MDC provides technical guidance in lake and stream management to private landowners. During FY05, staff responded to 7,243 requests for assistance with pond, stream, riparian corridor, floodplain and watershed management; conducted 1,556 on-site visits; provided 202 written management plans and assisted with the installation of 66 stream or riparian habitat projects. Initial stockings of fish were provided to 782 lakes, comprising 1,396 acres of surface water in FY05. MDC's website was updated to include 24 online impoundment management publications and 10 online stream management publications.

Stream Team Program successes: The Stream Team program has grown statewide to 2,888 teams comprising 57,760 people. In the 2004 calendar year, volunteers contributed 134,460 hours of time to Missouri's stream resource. This equates to $2.4 million contributed to the protection of our streams. More than 1,300 volunteers helped in the three large stream cleanups and educational activities associated with the Missouri River Relief events at Kansas City, Boonville and St. Charles.

Stream and lake accesses: MDC maintains 303 motorboat accesses on lakes and streams in Missouri. These areas include boat ramps, parking areas and other facilities that enhance public use of the state's waters. Through the Community Assistance Program, MDC worked with partners to complete a number of fishing and boating access improvement projects around the state. Cash grant reimbursements funded construction of a new disabled-accessible fishing dock at Teal Lake by Mexico; renovation and improvement of Lexington Riverfront Park Access on the Missouri River by Lexington, and construction of fishing and boating facilities at Old Marceline City Lake by Marceline. Under the terms of cooperative agreements, our Design & Development Section constructed boating and public-use facilities at Lanagan City Park on Indian Creek in McDonald County, constructed a boat ramp and an expanded parking area at Jefferson County's Morse Mill Park Access on the Big River, and worked with Pemiscot County to renovate and expand Triangle Boat Club Access on the Mississippi River. With the exception of the Teal Lake fishing dock, the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program reimbursed MDC for 75 percent of the costs of these fishing and boating access projects. New Community Assistance Program Agreements were executed with Sedalia Water Department (Spring Fork Lake), Canton (Canton Ferry Access), St. Louis County (Suson Rearing Pond), and Odessa (Lake Venita).

Provided low-cost tree seedlings; recognized community forestry efforts

The state nursery grows and distributes approximately 5 million seedlings each year. During FY05, the nursery provided seedlings at minimal cost to over 12,500 Missouri citizens for forest restoration, wildlife habitat and soil erosion prevention projects.

Sixty-six communities have received Tree City USA certification. This includes 4 new communities and two returning during FY05. In addition, eleven communities received Growth Awards. Approximately 38 percent of Missourians now live in a Tree City USA community.

Maintained safe and healthful environment for employees and the public; trained employees to meet public needs

Safety: Maintaining a safe and healthful environment for employees and the public is a high priority and directly affects MDC's ability to provide meaningful resource opportunities. A significant number of MDC positions include the potential for occupational hazards, ranging from moderate to severe exposure (such as operating heavy equipment or fighting fires). Additionally, a number of employees travel extensively to provide Missouri citizens with access to MDC services and programs. To reduce the potential for occupational and public accidents, we regularly conduct safety classes and site inspections throughout the state. While our goal is for the public and staff to be accident-free, we know that is not possible. During FY05, only 90 employee personal injuries, 93 vehicle accidents and 82 public mishaps were reported.

Training: Superior service depends on employees with the skills to communicate effectively, solve problems and make decisions. MDC's Academy for Leadership Excellence offers a comprehensive and structured approach to enhancing job success competencies by offering both mandatory and elective training opportunities to MDC employees. Understanding and meeting the needs of our external and internal stakeholders is a common thread running through courses covering effective leadership, effective communication, team-building/problem-solving and other topics.

In FY05, MDC offered three programs that reinforce the skills necessary to provide superior assistance to both internal and external stakeholders. We conducted twenty sessions, with 501 employees participating.

Gave landowners access to habitat-enhancement tools; maintained outreach to producer groups

Staff worked with Soil and Water Conservation Districts and related conservation partners to purchase fourteen native warm-season grass drills for use in key MDC geographies for bobwhite quail and grassland songbird habitat efforts.

Staff provided financial support and participated in many of the major agricultural conferences and trade shows throughout the state. Examples include the Governor's Agriculture Conference, Farm Bureau Annual Conference, Missouri Cattlemen's Annual Conference, the Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Training Conference, Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow, and the Farm Bureau and Young Farmers and Ranchers Annual Conference.

Made thousands of hunter/angler contacts; provided seed and information for habitat enhancement

Other public contacts: In addition to the 199,810 hunters and anglers contacted during FY05, conservation agents also acted as official MDC representatives, communicating with 293,697 people and conducting 124,691 phone conversations on MDC-related topics.

Missouri Seed Program: This program provides habitat-planning information and food-plot seed to Missouri landowners. The program's goals are to improve the quality of wildlife habitat on private lands and promote better farmer and landowner relations with MDC. It has proven to be an effective way to contact private landowners regarding wildlife management and other MDC programs.

Measured public attitudes, involvement and support for conservation activities

Missouri trout anglers—their attitudes, preferences and motivations: MDC has developed a statewide trout-management plan to ensure the efficiency of trout management efforts and the wise use of limited coldwater resources. Within this plan, an angler survey provided information on attitudes towards harvest, catch and release fishing, trout stocking, wild trout management, species preferences, fishing regulations and other aspects of the trout program. Trout was identified as the most important species to organized trout group anglers (71 percent), followed by trout permit holders (37 percent) and general anglers (24 percent). Missouri's trout parks were the preferred fishing locations of general anglers (65 percent), while 37 percent of organized anglers and 26 percent of trout permit holders preferred fishing these areas. Organized anglers spent more per angler, per year ($1,504) on trout fishing related expenses than did trout permit holders ($1,078) and general anglers ($618). Organized anglers were more likely than general anglers and trout-permit holders to be from or live in an urban area, and they also had higher incomes. Keeping some caught fish was important to only 14 percent of organized anglers, compared to 47 percent of general anglers and 44 percent of trout-permit holders. Trout anglers were generally not receptive to moving the opening day of trout season at trout parks to a weekend, preferring to maintain the traditional March 1 opening day. This survey demonstrates that these three groups of Missouri trout anglers have diverse opinions regarding trout fishing. These results will be used to help allocate Missouri's limited coldwater resources across a diverse range of angling opportunities that are the most likely to receive broad public support. Results also have implications for a variety of other important management issues including the size, number and species of trout to stock, fishing regulations, cost/benefit aspects of the trout program, information dissemination and control of the spread of aquatic nuisance species.

Horse trails on MDC lands: For many Missourians, horseback riding is an important way to enjoy nature. Recently, MDC conducted surveys to determine the miles of horseback trails and their use on MDC lands. A total of 184 areas reported at least some horse use. Area managers were asked about trends in horse use on their areas during the last five years. Of the 184 who had indicated some kind of horse use, 25 percent thought it had increased, 44 percent felt it had stayed the same and only 5 percent felt it had decreased. Conflicts between horse users and other users do not seem to be a serious problem on most areas, but with so many areas seeing an increase in equestrian activities, these conflicts may increase in the future. The second phase of the project has been approved for FY06. Trail counters will be placed on selected areas to get a clearer understanding of patterns of equestrian activity on key areas.

Telechecking deer and turkeys—management moving forward: Mandatory deer and turkey checking provides a means of collecting data for management. In-person check stations have been valued for their ability to allow hunters to assist MDC with wildlife management. Throughout the years, we have periodically evaluated alternatives to in-person checking that were more convenient and less costly for hunters, and, at the same time, freed up MDC agents to better enforce regulations. In 2002, we began to evaluate Telechecking (checking by phone or Internet) to see if it could be a suitable replacement for in-person checking. Although several states were successfully using electronic checking, MDC was not willing to adopt such a system until we determined if the biological information collected and hunter compliance were comparable to in-person checking.

From fall 2002 through spring 2005 we did a thorough experimental, operational and social evaluation of Telecheck. From this evaluation we concluded that biological information from Telechecking would meet the needs of wildlife management, and hunter compliance with checking would provide the necessary harvest information. We also concluded that, operationally, the Telecheck system was sound. Input from surveys and public meetings also indicated strong public support for Telecheck. To ensure a smooth transition from in-person checking to Telecheck, we informed deer and turkey hunters of the possible change to Telecheck in the 2004 Fall Deer and Turkey Hunting brochure.

Our move to fully implement Telecheck beginning in the fall 2005 is an example of the trust we place in Missouri hunters. Most hunters have demonstrated a strong willingness to support our management strategies, including in-person checking of wildlife. We feel that, with the continued support of hunters, Telecheck will serve deer and turkey management in Missouri well into the future.

Outreach and incentive efforts involve public in fish, forest and wildlife stewardship

Connecting the public to fish, forest and wildlife resources: In FY05 staff focused on ways to inform peers, cooperators and citizens about wildlife stewardship. Private landowner services included making almost 800 farm plan contacts and 56 incentive program contacts. The Landowner Incentive Program assumed a much greater role in benefiting endangered species on private lands by providing state and federal assistance payments and providing technical support in a timely manner, and also by conducting 218 workshop/program events. MDC staff responded to 578 contacts regarding wildlife damage issues, offered assistance to 477 residents of urban communities and had almost 22,000 additional contacts with the general public. In addition to 104 media contacts and presentations, staff developed Conservationist magazine articles and management leaflets, participated in Missouri Outdoors programs, provided input on weekly statewide news releases, and updated the MDC website. MDC also organized and conducted deer season public meetings, public surveys and public forums designed to help MDC staff work better with citizens to conserve fish, forest and wildlife resources throughout the state.

Bird conservation initiatives: MDC has helped assemble a wide variety of conservation partners to promote "all-bird" conservation in Missouri. Common goals and strategies for data collection, monitoring and evaluation have been established. By providing matching funds, the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative Grant Program supported projects from many different organizations and partners. In all, 30 conservation-oriented organizations and four private citizens have contributed funds to the program. An All-Bird Conservation Team helped coordinate bird-related initiatives such as Partners in Flight, Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative, North American Waterbird Conservation Plan, North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan. MDC helped Missouri Audubon develop Important Bird Areas, which is the National Audubon Society's part of an international effort to identify and conserve the areas that are the most important for sustaining bird populations. MDC provided matching funds for a Director of Bird Conservation who works on various cooperative projects identified through the Important Bird Area program. MDC provided partial funding for a National Wild Turkey Federation regional biologist to focus on building cooperative habitat management partnerships, enhance conservation program delivery to private landowners, and restore critical habitats such as glades and savannas.

❖ *To provide opportunity for all citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about fish, forest, and wildlife resources*

Helped thousands learn about, participate in and enjoy fishing

Information and education: Approximately 100,000 people participated in fisheries-related educational activities in FY05. Information about fishing, fisheries management, stream and watershed management, aquatic ecology and a wide variety of related topics was provided through presentations, demonstrations or manned displays at meetings, field days, open houses, classroom presentations, assembly presentations, fairs, sport shows, festivals, teacher workshops or other conservation-focused special events. We maintained an inventory of about 180 printed brochures and leaflets concerning fish, places to fish, fishing techniques, pond and stream management techniques, regulations and fisheries programs and distributed copies to the public and MDC staff as requested. We produced over 35,000 copies of "Missouri Fishing Prospects" and sent a statewide weekly fishing report to over 9,000 recipients each week.

Angler recognition programs: MDC recognized 1,145 anglers for catching their first fish with a First Fish Certificate. Master Angler Awards were issued to 341 anglers who caught large game fish that equaled or exceeded minimum size requirements. Seven new state records were issued to anglers who caught fish that exceeded the recorded maximum sizes known for a given species in Missouri.

Kids Fishing Days at the trout parks: On May 14, a record–breaking 4,720 children participated in Kids' Fishing Days at Missouri's four trout parks. Free daily fishing tags were given to youngsters 15 years of age or younger who enjoyed exclusive access to areas heavily-stocked with rainbow trout, fishing instruction provided by MDC staff and a variety of volunteers, opportunities to earn their First Fish Award and plenty of free food. The events were successful due to cooperation with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, The James Foundation, local businesses, community groups and conservation organizations.

Rod and reel loaner program: MDC and Jackson began a rod and reel loaner program at the city's public library. MDC provided rods, reels, and basic tackle, and the library staff loaned them out just as they do books. So far in 2005, 85 Jackson citizens (mostly children) have borrowed fishing equipment.

Continued support of education community forestry programs

MDC and the Missouri Community Forestry Council continued their active role in support of educational community forestry programs. Activities this year included sponsorship of a statewide Arbor Day Poster Contest for fifth-graders and workshops focusing on topics such as planting depth, arborist certification, oak wilt and tree growth regulators, to name a few.

Helped nearly 5 million citizens discover, use and enjoy outdoor Missouri

More than 900,000 people experienced the programs, trails and facilities at Conservation Nature Centers and Shooting Range/Outdoor Education Centers across the state. Another 27,654 hunter education students were certified, which brings the total since the beginning of the program to within a year of reaching the millionth student. More than 1,175 schools were served directly through conservation education staff contacts. Grants helped 292 Missouri schools provide conservation field trips and 37 schools develop outdoor classrooms. The Missouri Master Naturalist program continued to grow with four added Master Naturalist chapters initiated. Courses graduating 101 participants were held in Columbia, Joplin, Rolla and West Plains.

Hundreds attended Grow Native! workshops in Kansas City and St. Louis, and thousands of Missourians requested the new free guides on Native Plant Rain Gardens and Native Plants for Farms. During No MOre Trash! Bash 2005 held in April, more than 10,200 people in 941 groups picked up more than 57,000 bags of trash. They also collected numerous truckloads of items too big to fit in a bag, including refrigerators, water tanks, hundreds of tires, and more.

The free Missouri Conservationist magazine provided an average of 473,000 subscribers each month with a wealth of stories on our fish, forests, wildlife and the people who enjoy and sustain them. Other outreach efforts include TV and radio programming, news releases, website traffic and the production and distribution of hundreds of print publications.

Thousands taught and permitted to hunt and fish

Hunting Method Exemption Program: The Hunting Method Exemption Program provides special exemptions to physically disabled persons allowing them to hunt and take wildlife by methods not otherwise legally permitted. During FY05, a total of 3,516 hunter method exemptions were approved for Missouri citizens.

Group Fishing Permit Exemptions: MDC authorizes permit exemptions for supervised groups involved in rehabilitation programs or groups of hospital patients or persons with disabilities under therapy. During this past fiscal year, 436 group fishing permits were issued for outings providing fishing experiences to persons who otherwise may not be able to participate in outdoor fishing activities.

Falconry Program: Hunting by the method of using birds of prey is a non-traditional sport. To ensure these federally protected species are properly cared for, Missouri and federal law requires falconers to be tested prior to licensing, and it requires them to monitoring their birds' activities and movements. There are 107 licensed falconers in the state of Missouri.

Hunter Education: Hunter Education certification is required for purchasing any type of Missouri firearms hunting permit for persons born on or after January 1, 1967 (except the Youth Deer & Turkey Hunting Permit). Conservation agents work with other MDC staff and approximately 2,000 volunteer instructors to coordinate hunter education courses in all 114 counties of Missouri. Conservation agents are also closely involved in investigating every hunting accident in the state.

Efforts to improve use and enjoyment of natural resources

White-tailed deer harvest management and antler point restrictions: Significant changes in statewide deer regulations have been implemented over the last several years in an effort to simplify regulations and improve our ability to manage deer numbers. These changes include county level management, unlimited issuance of antlerless permits, antler point restrictions and implementation of the urban portion of the firearms season.

The 2004 record harvest of 314,986 deer during all seasons included a 13 percent increase in doe harvest, but no change in the antlered buck harvest. The increased doe harvest reflects the success of our emphasis on antlerless deer harvest, as well as ideal hunting conditions. The doe harvest increases are consistent with management goals in most counties. The liberal regulations have resolved some of the hot spots but we continue to have problems associated with too many deer in urban areas and other refuges. In contrast, we are receiving more complaints about cold spots created by the liberal regulations.

A rule requiring antlered deer to have a minimum of 4 points on at least one side was implemented in 29 counties for the 2004 deer seasons. The rule applied to the archery season and all but the youth portion of the firearms season. The first year of antler point restrictions appeared to go smoothly. The decrease in yearling buck harvest (–66 percent) was similar in the north and central pilot counties. Antler point restrictions appeared to produce a substantial increase in doe harvest in the central pilot counties (+31 percent in pilot vs. +11 percent in control) but not in the north pilot (+8 percent in pilot vs. +9 percent in control). Mail surveys indicated that generally, there was good landowner and hunter acceptance of the antler point restrictions but no significant effect of the regulation on attitudes toward deer or deer management.

With the exception of a few minor changes, proposed statewide deer regulations for 2005 represent an effort to stabilize these regulations. Stable regulations reduce hunter confusion and allow us to assess the outcome of recent changes.

Opportunities for deer hunting on conservation areas have been reassessed in recent years with evidence of deer overharvest on public areas open to statewide regulations. Low deer populations produce hunter dissatisfaction and increasing likelihood that hunters will not return to the area. Conservation area deer hunting regulation changes are being proposed to provide more diverse hunting opportunities and to produce deer numbers similar to those on private land. The intent is to improve hunter satisfaction with the hunting experience on public areas.

Waterfowl hunting fair to good in FY05: Habitat conditions, duck abundance, and hunter success were highly variable during the 2004 waterfowl season. Despite early season concerns about availability of water for pumping, most wetland areas had adequate water available for managed flooding. Natural food and crop conditions were fair to good on most wetland areas. Timely rains created additional habitat in places dependent on opportunistic flooding. Mild conditions and delayed duck arrival challenged hunters in the early season. Late-season hunters contended with ice on shallow water habitat, but they still had hunting opportunities with good duck numbers present throughout the 60-day season. Mid-October duck numbers (135,332) on Conservation Areas and National Wildlife Refuges were lower then in 2003 (167,447) and 2001 (202,000), but similar to 2002 (129,501). There was a notable absence of major migration events in November. The 2004 count (492,800) on November 15th was lower than a week earlier in 2003 (598,900). In 2003, the peak count (654,400) occurred on November 24th. In 2004, it did not occur until early December when duck numbers reached 658,100. The 2004–05 Midwinter Waterfowl Survey, conducted during January 3rd to 7th, reflected duck numbers (691,470) similar to 2003–04 (641,185) and within the range of the last 20 years (85,700–714,000). Duck hunters made over 36,000 trips to wetland areas in Missouri and harvested more than 63,000 ducks.

Missourians put forests to many uses: What would life be like if Missouri had no forests? Besides being a lot less pleasant, scenic and enjoyable for us, a forest-less Missouri would be a lot poorer. A recent MDC analysis showed that the forest products industry contributes $4.43 billion annually to the Missouri economy in 2005 dollars. The industry supports over 32,250 jobs at a payroll of about $1.1 billion and is responsible for over $360 million in taxes that help to run our state and country, including $54 million in state sales tax. These numbers include not only the direct effect of jobs in the primary wood processing industry (such as logging and sawmill operations) but also indirect and "induced" effects in the secondary wood products industry (such as cabinet shops, log cabins, paperboard manufacturing and so on) and in the economy as a whole. Results are based on data collected by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and MDC between 2001 and 2004, and compiled by the Minnesota IMPLAN Group and MDC.

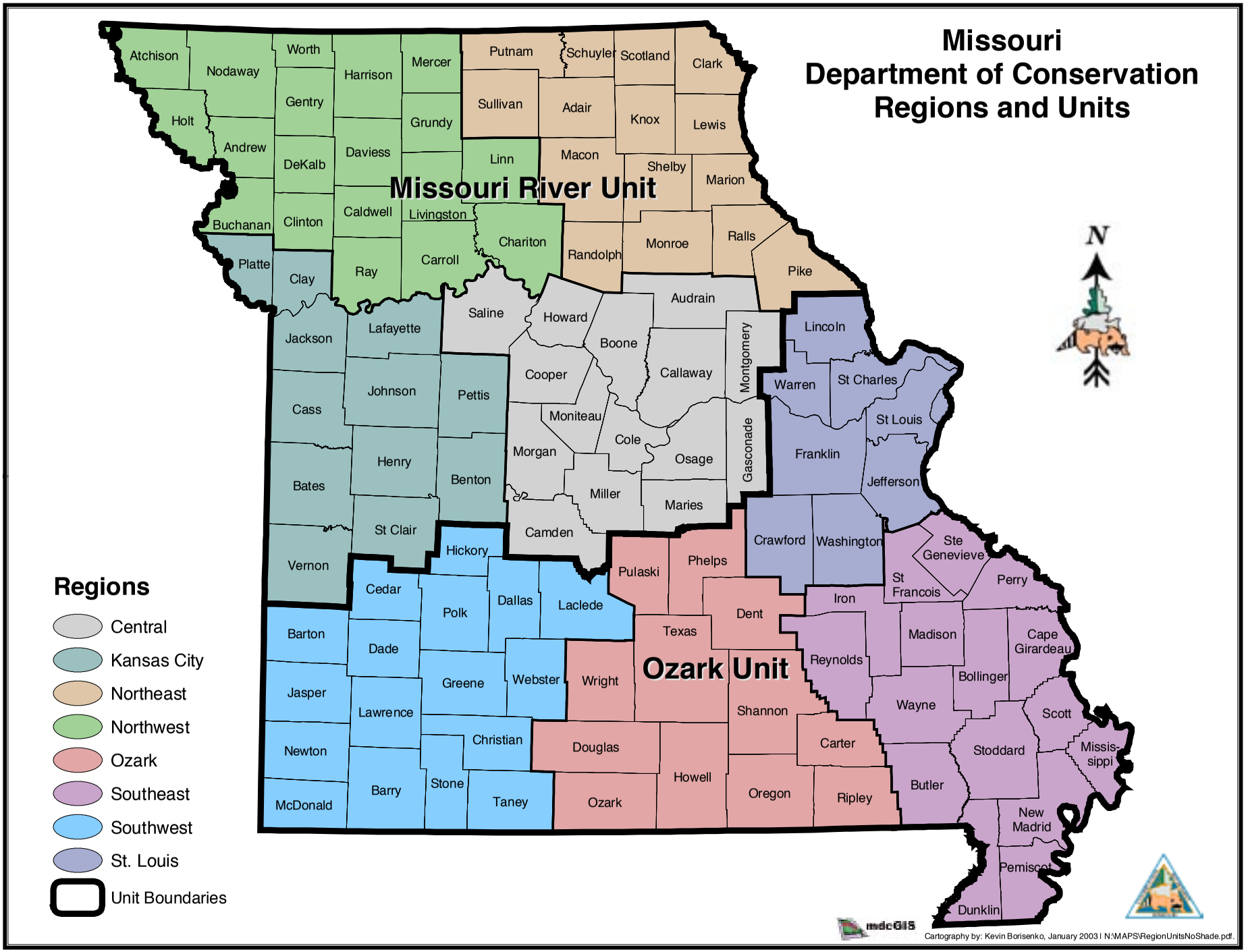
White crappie growth related to food habits in north Missouri lakes: Poor growth of white crappies is a problem plaguing several north Missouri reservoirs. This poor growth affects the quality of these fisheries because few crappies grow large enough to be of interest to anglers. The problem is most severe in Long Branch Lake where white crappies seldom reach 180 mm in 3 years, even though the management objective is 230 mm in 3 years. In 2004, we initiated a comprehensive study to determine factors affecting the growth of white crappies in 3 north Missouri reservoirs—Long Branch, Thomas Hill, and Mark Twain lakes. The study incorporates a comprehensive analysis of crappie food habits along with a study of factors affecting abundance and size structure of gizzard shad less than one year old. The shad data are important because studies in other Missouri reservoirs indicate an abundant supply of small gizzard shad less than one year old is essential for good crappie growth. We recently completed the "pilot" portion of this study and have some preliminary data on white crappie food habits from 2002 and 2003.

Serving nature and citizens on conservation areas: MDC provides public facilities on Conservation Areas that are clean and well maintained so that area visitors can have a safe and enjoyable outdoor experience. While MDC public areas provide places where citizens may hunt, fish and enjoy nature, they also encompass lands that are specifically managed as the best examples of natural community types or vital habitats for endangered plants and animals. MDC manages over 1,000 areas with a balance between providing diverse outdoor recreational opportunities and actively conserving plants, animals and their habitats. New or improved facilities such as parking areas, rest rooms, trails, disabled-accessible hunting blinds and wildlife viewing platforms are developed each year to encourage visitor use. MDC has also developed and strengthened relationships with nearby landowners and other neighbors adjacent to Conservation Areas through personal visits, open houses, offers of technical support and other forms of personal interaction. Efforts also included managing Conservation Area deer hunting regulations in ways that provide a range of hunting opportunities for deer hunters, do not over-harvest the deer herd and ensure that deer populations do not create problems for neighbors.

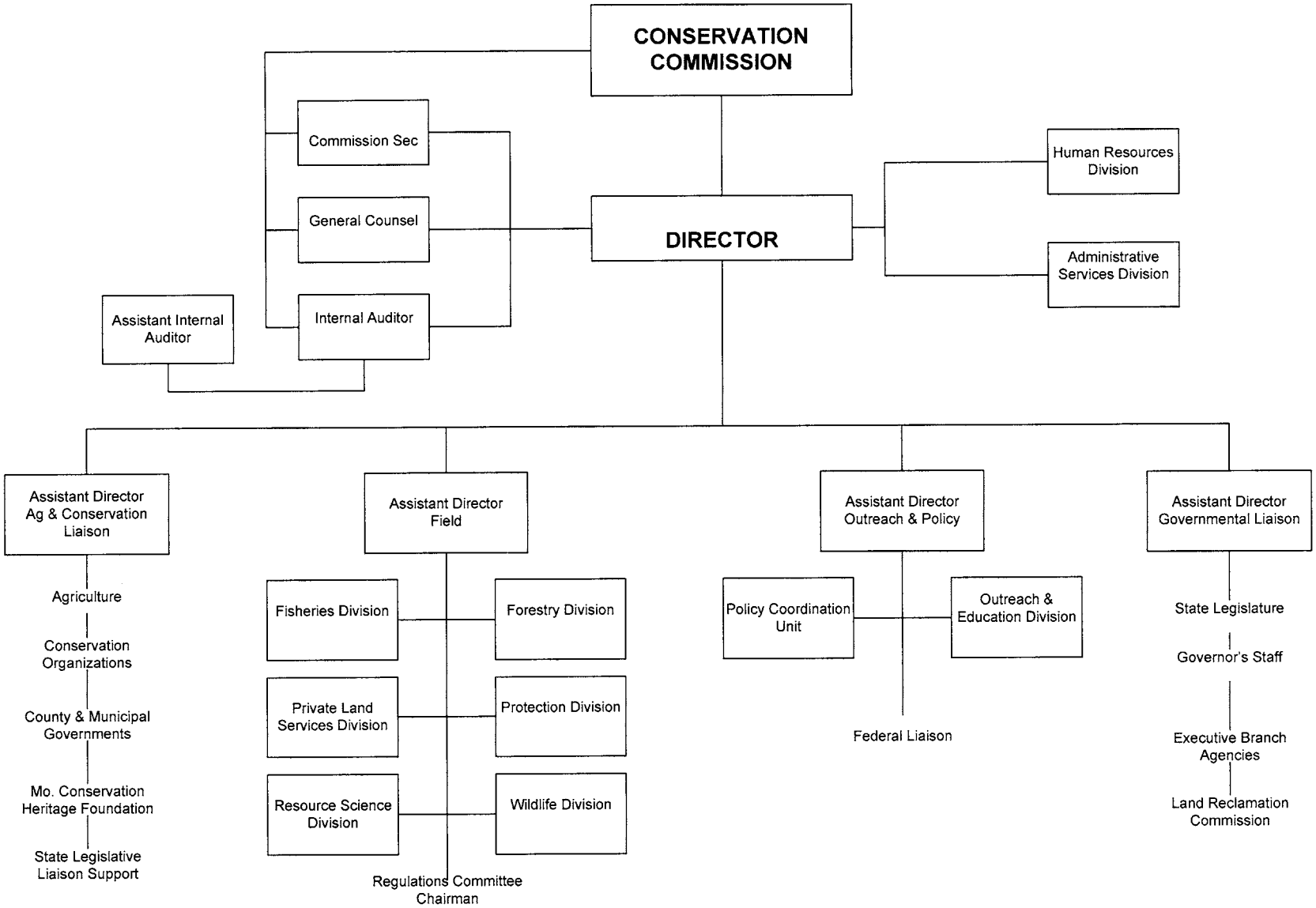


Organization and Administrative Descriptions

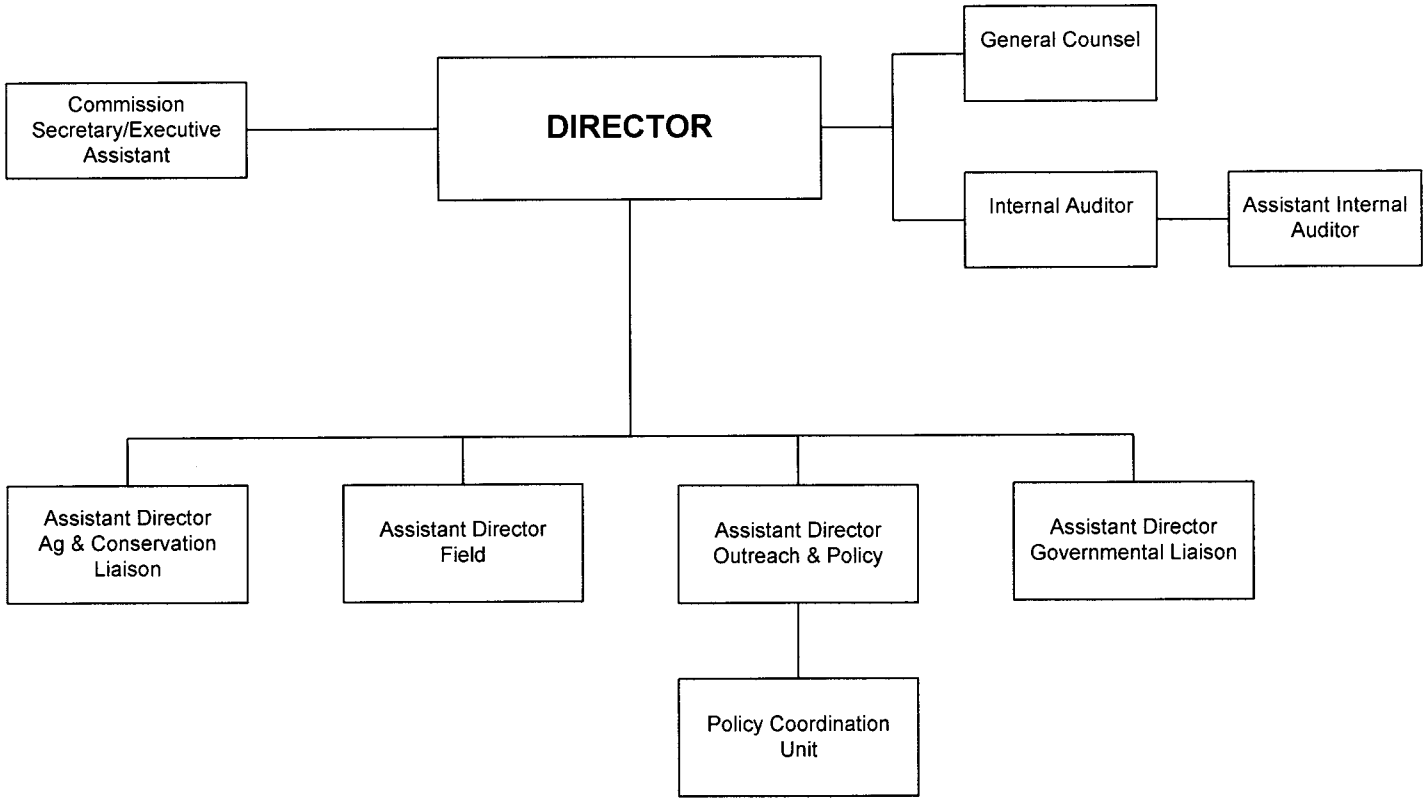
- ▲ Department Organizational Chart
- ▲ Department Regions and Units
- ▲ Director's Office and Department Divisions
- ▲ Department Budget


Missouri
Department of Conservation
Regions and Units
Missouri River Unit
Ozark Unit
N
Regions
Central
Kansas City
Northeast
Northwest
Ozark
Southeast
Southwest
St. Louis
Unit Boundaries
Atchison
Nodaway
Worth
Harrison
Mercer
Putnam
Schuyler
Scotland
Clark
Holt
Andrew
Gentry
DeKalb
Daviess
Grundy
Sullivan
Adair
Knox
Lewis
Buchanan
Clinton
Caldwell
Livingston
Linn
Macon
Shelby
Marion
Platte
Clay
Ray
Carroll
Chariton
Randolph
Monroe
Ralls
Pike
Jackson
Lafayette
Saline
Howard
Audrain
Boone
Montgomery
Lincoln
Cass
Johnson
Pettis
Cooper
Callaway
Warren
St Charles
Moniteau
St Louis
Bates
Henry
Benton
Morgan
Cole
Osage
Gasconade
Franklin
Jefferson
Miller
Maries
St Clair
Camden
Crawford
Washington
Ste Genevieve
Hickory
Pulaski
Phelps
Vernon
Cedar
Polk
Dallas
Laclede
St Francois
Perry
Iron
Barton
Dade
Texas
Dent
Madison
Cape Girardeau
Reynolds
Jasper
Greene
Webster
Wright
Shannon
Bollinger
Lawrence
Wayne
Scott
Newton
Christian
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Cartography by: Kevin Borisenko, January 2003 I N:\MAPS\RegionUnitsNoShade.pdf.

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION



Director's Office



Director's Office

John Hoskins, Director

Director John Hoskins, appointed by the Conservation Commission, is the administrative officer of the Department of Conservation and directly oversees the four assistant directors, general counsel, internal auditor, Administrative Services division administrator and the Human Resources division administrator.

John Smith, Assistant Director

Assistant Director John Smith administers field operations for MDC and directly oversees division administrators of Fisheries, Wildlife, Forestry, Private Land Services, Protection and Resource Science. He is also chair of the Regulations Committee, a standing committee that recommends statewide wildlife regulations to the Conservation Commission.

Denise Garnier, Assistant Director

Assistant Director Denise Garnier is the MDC liaison with the Missouri congressional delegation and federal agencies, and directly oversees the Outreach and Education Division and the Policy Coordination Unit.

Steve Wilson, Assistant Director

Assistant Director Steve Wilson is the MDC liaison with agriculture interests, and works proactively with local and county governments and various stakeholder groups on conservation issues.

Bob Ziehmer, Assistant Director

Assistant Director Bob Ziehmer is the MDC liaison with the state legislature, state agencies in the executive branch and the governor's office staff. He also represents MDC on the Land Reclamation Commission.

Craig Evans, General Counsel

General Counsel Craig Evans is legal adviser to MDC staff, the director and Conservation Commission.

Nancy Dubbert, Internal Auditor

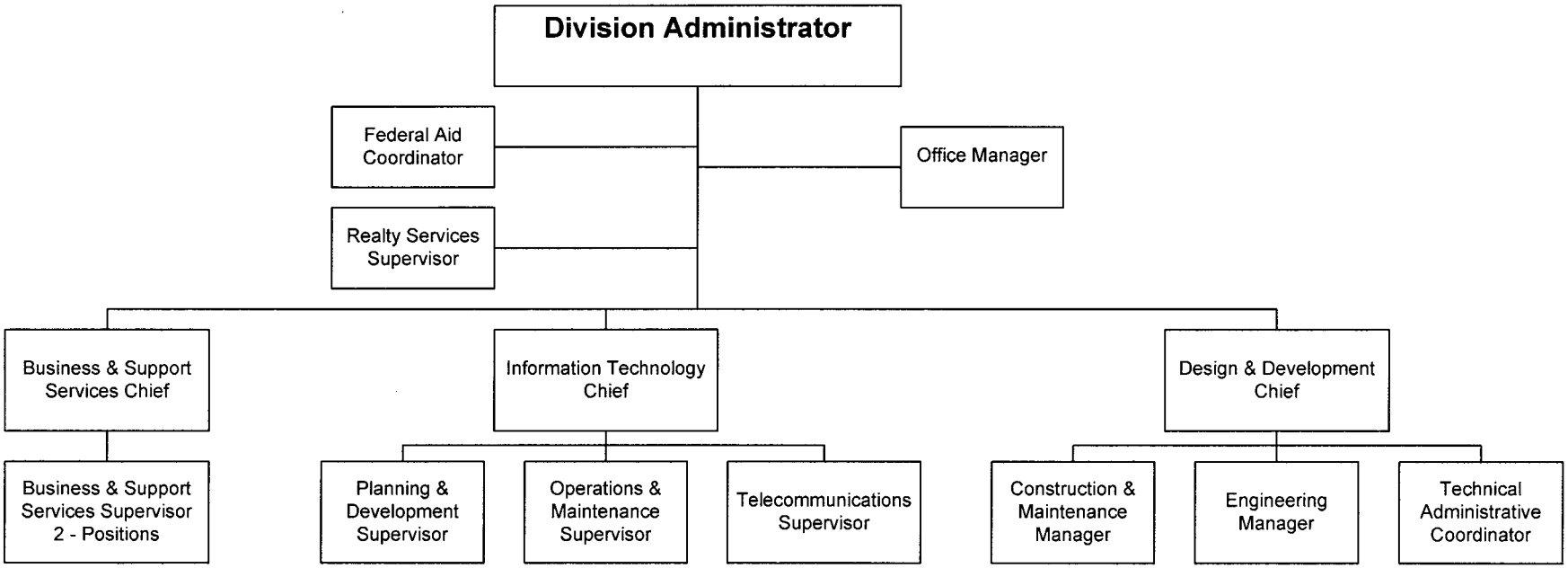
Internal Auditor Nancy Dubbert serves MDC by independently analyzing MDC operations, policies, procedures, records and compliance with laws and regulations to ensure effectiveness and accountability. The internal auditor also is custodian of records and oversees the assistant internal auditor.

Policy Coordination Unit

The Policy Coordination Unit serves the director's office and the agency by managing agency-wide, statewide, complex or sensitive issues. The team of nine staff is supervised by Jane Epperson. Examples of services include:

- Coordinating intra- and inter-state forest, fish and wildlife resources associated with the Missouri, Mississippi and White rivers.
- Coordinating agency development and revision of policies and procedures which provide guidance for area and resource management.
- Obtaining necessary state and federal environmental regulatory permits and cultural clearances for statewide MDC construction and land management activities.
- Representing public forest, fish and wildlife interests by coordinating and providing comments or recommendations to federal agencies authorized to conduct environmental reviews and approve project permits.
- Responding to public requests for site-specific information regarding species and communities of conservation concern by providing comments or recommendations to minimize impacts.
- Coordinating public involvement activities including social and economic survey analysis, public-use surveys and regional citizen forums.
- Guiding MDC's strategic planning process.

Administrative Services Division



Administrative Services Division

Mission: *To support and serve MDC staff and programs in a manner that promotes financial accountability, prudent use of MDC assets, infrastructure and technology, and development of services and facilities sufficiently to meet MDC responsibilities and public expectations.*

Administrative Services Division fulfills its mission by serving MDC's internal and external stakeholders through the following sections that comprise this division.

Business and Support Services—This section provides a broad range of functions that support MDC's operations, while carefully managing the agency's assets, which have been entrusted to its care. Major functions this section oversees include: equipment management and maintenance, sign production, distribution center operations, automated permit distribution, managed hunt/special permit management, printing and mailing functions, aviation, revenue projections and management, internal and executive budget management, financial analytical support, fixed asset inventory, agricultural crop management, accounts payable and MDC's payroll.

Design and Development—Programs performed in this section consist of engineering, architecture, construction/maintenance services, including design and construction of capital improvements projects; repair and renovation of MDC infrastructure; plus the maintenance of MDC areas and facilities.

Federal Aid Coordination—The federal aid staff is MDC's primary administrator of federal aid granting opportunities. Some of the agencies in which federal aid monies are obtained and managed include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency and Natural Resource Conservation Service. MDC's federal aid staff administers approximately 80 federal grants, with the most significant of these being the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration grants.

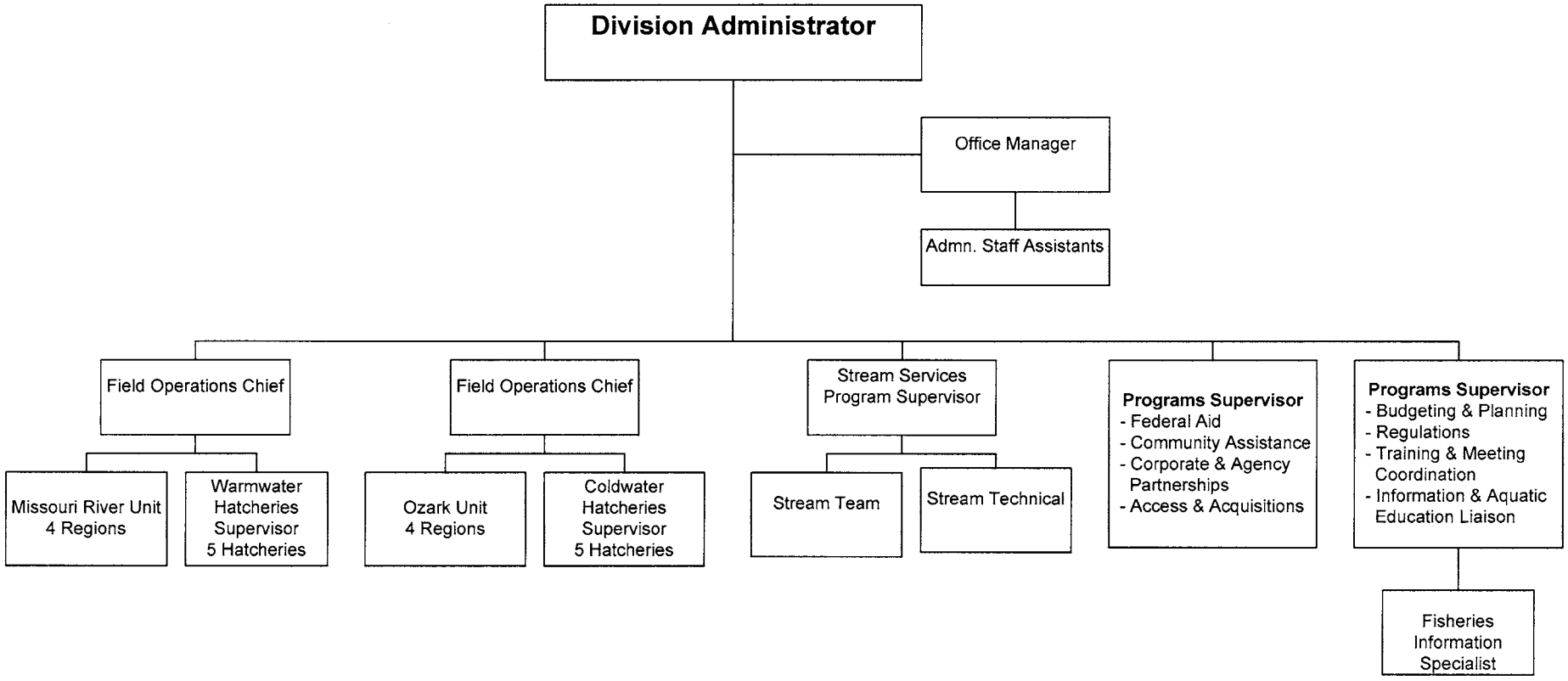
Information Technology Services—Communication responsibility for the entire agency is entrusted to this section. Better known as IT, employees provide a wide range of services which include data, telecommunications and radio system management, helpdesk operations, software support, network operations and application development functions.

Realty Services—Realty Services is responsible for handling the acquisition of all lands and land rights for MDC including trades that would eliminate in-holdings; resolving boundary, trespass, or access issues on MDC areas; handling easement requests, boundary resolutions, as well as maintaining records of MDC's real estate inventory; and distributing annual in-lieu tax payments to Missouri's 114 counties.

Site Administration—Site administration provides clerical and maintenance personnel support at MDC's regional offices and many of the larger field offices.

Every effort is made throughout the Administrative Services Division to achieve its mission by maintaining the financial integrity of MDC and ensuring prudent use of MDC's assets; providing a broad range of high-quality support services to MDC's staff and programs; leading and facilitating the effective use of technology in MDC operations; coordinating and managing federal grants for the agency; acquiring and maintaining MDC equipment, infrastructure and land. By achieving the division's mission, we assist MDC in carrying out its constitutional mandate of protecting and managing Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife for the enjoyment of future generations.

Fisheries Division



Fisheries Division

Mission: *To professionally manage the fish and associated aquatic plants and animals of Missouri for the use and enjoyment of the people.*

Goals: Four broad goals guide the division. We are striving to:

- Maintain diversity of aquatic species and reduce the effects of nuisance aquatic species;
- Provide enjoyable fishing trips;
- Protect aquatic habitat; and
- Inform and educate the public about Missouri's aquatic resources.

Missouri's aquatic resources are vast and diverse. Missouri has almost 17,000 miles of permanent rivers and streams and another 39,000 miles of intermittent streams. The state also has about 780,000 acres of lakes (36 percent public). Each year, millions of people use and enjoy our waters, and fishing continues to be one of our most popular outdoor activities. About 22 percent of our residents fish sometime during the year. During 2004, MDC sold 1,371,015 fishing permits and tags of all types to 844,318 people. Fishing is big business and very important to the state's tourism industry.

Organization: To carry out its mission and achieve its goals, the division has fisheries management staff deployed in MDC's eight regions. Management efforts are supported by five warmwater fish hatcheries, five coldwater fish hatcheries, the Stream Unit and central office staff.

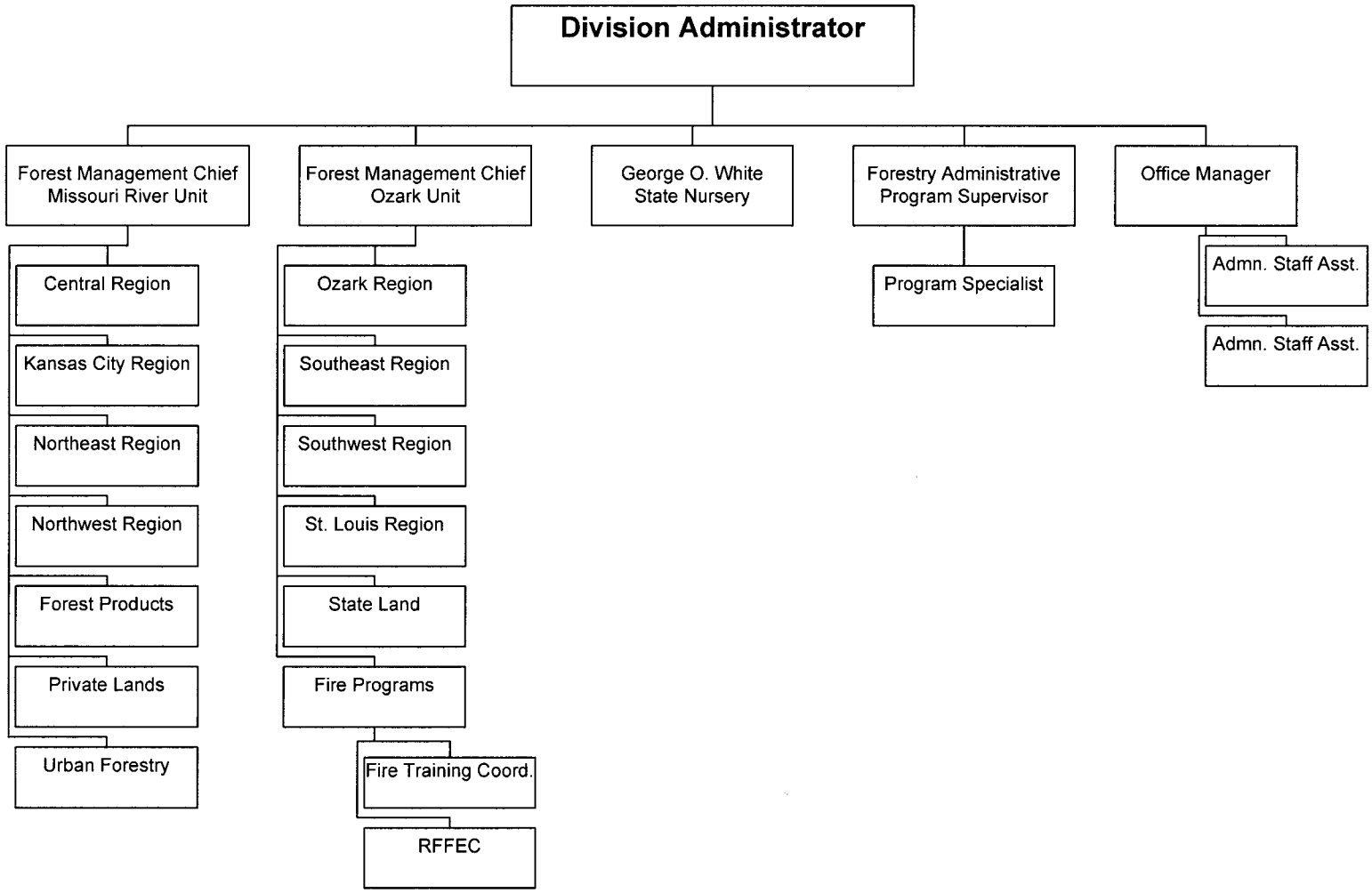
Programs:
Regional staff is responsible for monitoring and maintaining the quality of the aquatic resources, managing the public fisheries resources, providing technical guidance in lake and stream management to private landowners and other state and federal agencies, providing and assisting with public information and education, and representing the division and MDC on matters pertaining to the aquatic resources of their region.

The staffs of the five warmwater hatcheries are responsible for rearing the fish needed to stock public waters, waters used for special fishing events and aquatic resource education, and private lakes that qualify for initial stocking of fingerling fish. They also play a vital role in our efforts to restore state and federal endangered species. The five coldwater hatcheries rear the trout needed to stock public waters. Their staffs are also responsible for stocking and managing the four trout parks that are enjoyed by more than 400,000 anglers each year.

The Streams Unit is responsible for administering the STREAM TEAM consisting of 57,760 citizen volunteers and the Stash Your Trash programs, working with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources on the Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring program and providing stream technical services to MDC staff, other state and federal agencies and private landowners.

Central office staff directs and administers division programs, works on the acquisition and development of public fishing and boat access areas, coordinates angler recognition programs, develops and revises technical and popular written materials and provides administrative support for division and MDC staff and programs.

Forestry Division



Forestry Division

Mission: *To protect and manage the forests of the state for long-term resource sustainability and for the use and enjoyment of the people; to contribute and work with all divisions toward MDC's mission.*

Goals:

- Forest management decisions and actions are scientifically based, in concert with MDC goals, and aimed at developing healthy and sustainable forest ecosystems.
- Private land and community forest resource management is an emphasis for Forestry Division and focuses on landowner education and the development of partnerships with other, agencies, organizations and industry.
- Forestry Division public land management activities maintain the long-term integrity of forest ecosystems, while contributing to societal and economic goals and needs.

Organization: To fulfill its mission, the Forestry Division is organized into seven main program areas as described below. Administrative staff is assigned to specific program areas while field staff works across all program areas.

Programs:

Private Land— Foresters assist Missouri landowners with forest management through one-on-one contacts and by using the Forest Crop Land program (state forestry law), Tree Farm program, Agroforestry, Forest Stewardship, Forest Legacy and many other state and federal cost-share programs. We assist more than 2,000 landowners with management on 80,000-plus acres annually.

Public Land— Forestry Division manages in excess of 440,000 acres of public forest land. Foresters also provide technical assistance on lands managed by the Wildlife Division. Forestry Division annually completes more than 53,500 acres of active management including forest inventory, tree planting, timber sales, forest stand improvement, wildlife management practices, and glade and savanna management.

Fire— Forestry Division has statutory responsibility for wildfire suppression in the state. Division personnel work closely with more than 800 fire departments to offer training, provide federal excess property, provide grants for the purchase of fire equipment and promote wildfire prevention activities.

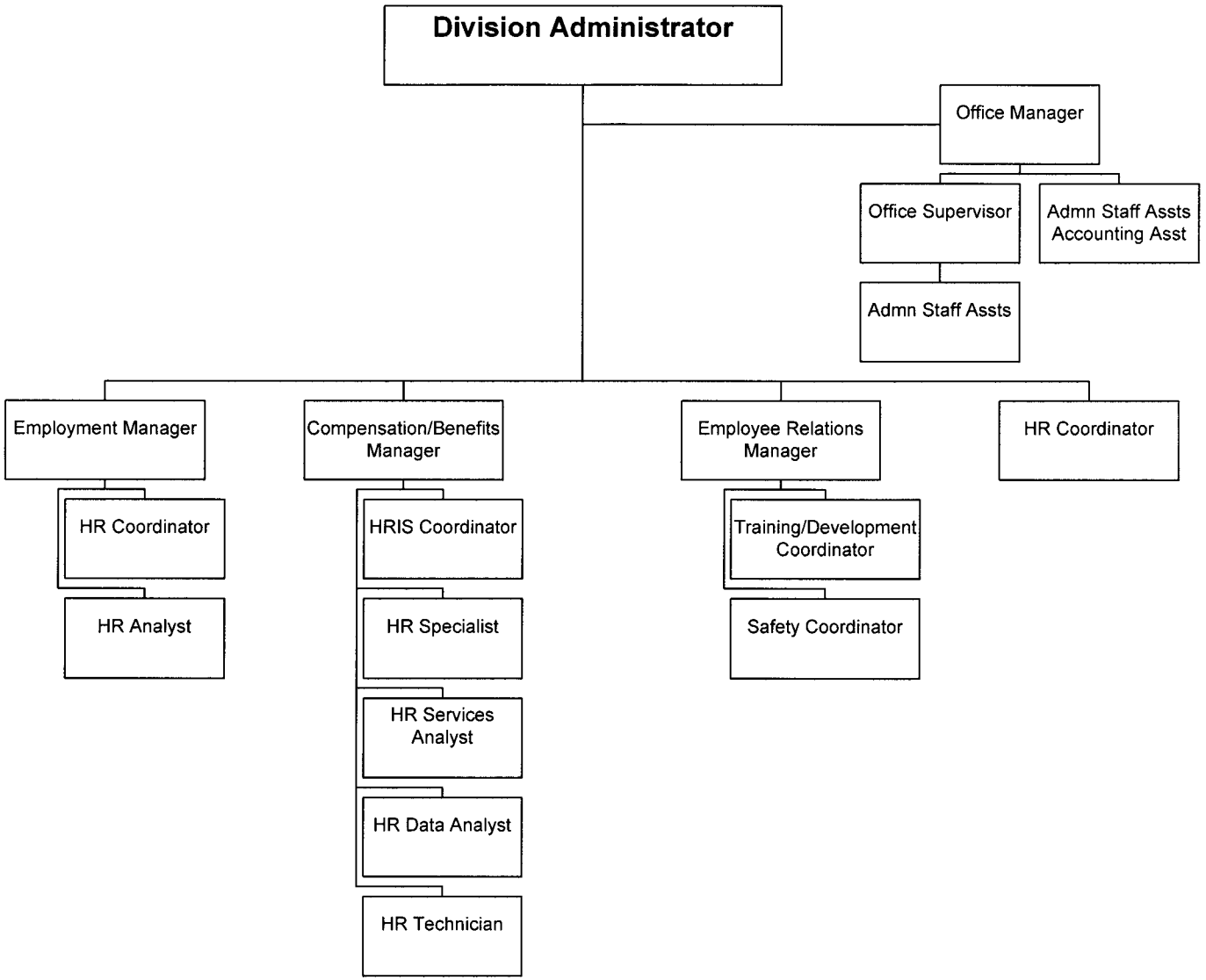
Urban and Community Forestry— This program provides planning and technical assistance to communities and homeowners. In addition, the Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM) program provides more than $270,000 of cost-share assistance each year to more than 40 Missouri communities for tree planting and maintenance of their urban forest resources. We have a partnership with the National Arbor Day Foundation to promote and administer the Tree City USA program. Missouri has more than 66 certified Tree City USA communities. Forestry Division also works with the Arbor Day Foundation to provide training to electric utility right-of-way clearing crews through the Tree Line USA program. Eight utility providers are Tree Line USA certified.

Forest Products— The division works closely with Missouri's forest products industry to monitor the use of our state's forest resource. The Missouri Forest Products Association and Forestry Division jointly sponsor logger training courses aimed at educating loggers about forest management principles, introducing new techniques and concepts, and enhancing the safety of timber harvesting operations.

Outreach and Education— Forestry Division works closely with our Outreach and Education Division to increase Missourians' understanding about their state's forest resources and proper forest management activities. In addition, foresters conduct programs, field days and workshops for schools, special interest groups, and the general public on a wide range of forest management issues.

State Forest Nursery— The nursery annually grows and distributes more than 5 million seedlings of more than 50 species. The seedlings include trees and shrubs suitable for reforestation and wildlife habitat restoration activities. The seedlings are planted on both public and private land throughout the state.

Human Resources Division



Human Resources Division

Mission: *To sustain the human resources services and programs that are necessary for a diversified, dynamic workforce and for an organization considered an "employer of choice."*

Programs:
Compensation—Staff performs compensation and classification activities that are used to support an employee compensation program that is both competitive and fiscally responsibility. Staff also administers other employee pay and benefits programs such as a comprehensive medical and life insurance program.

Employee Relations—Staff coordinates programs and activities which promote employee relations such as recognition programs for years of service, special achievement, retirement, and administers employee health and wellness programs that include health screenings and health education.

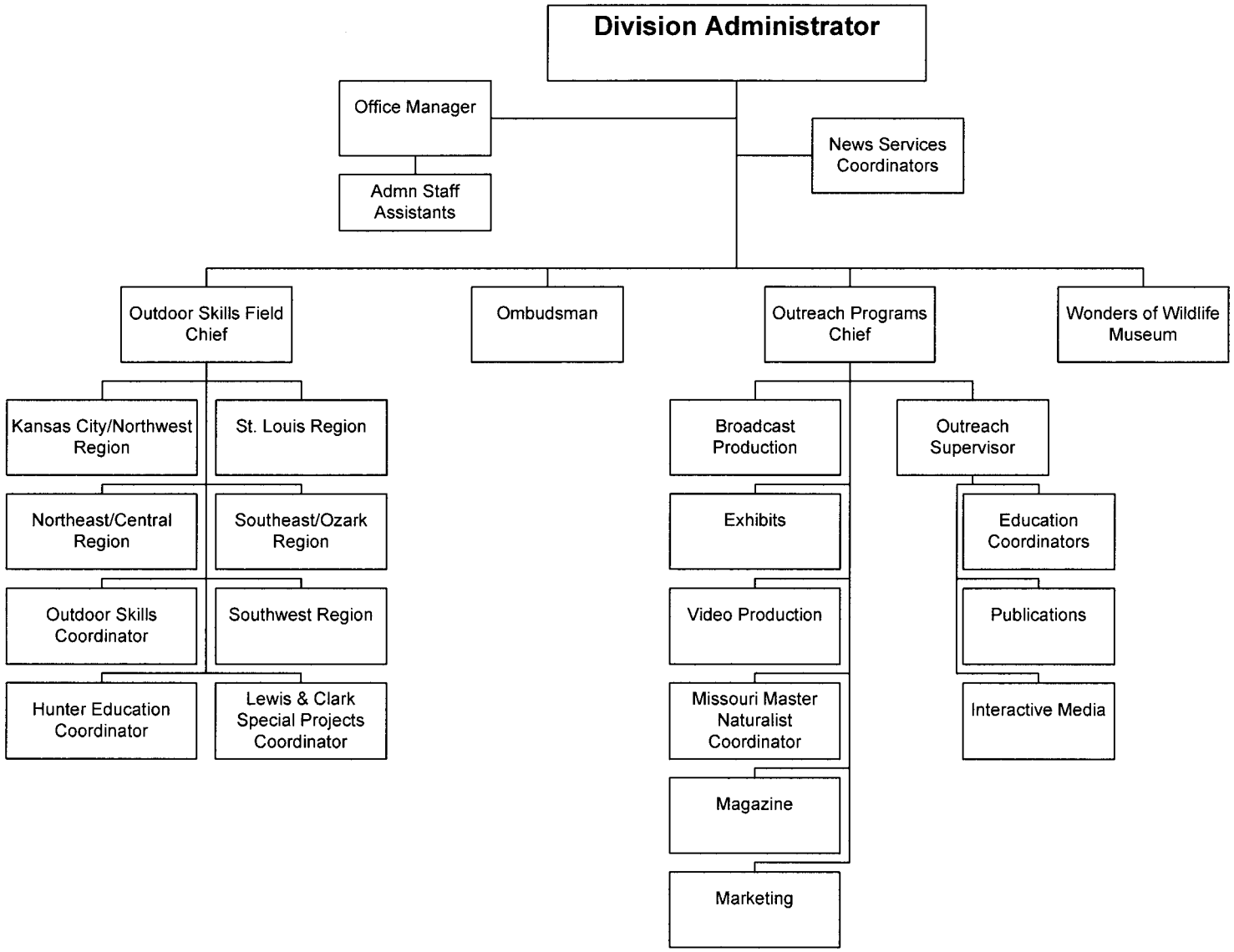
Policy Administration—Staff maintains MDC's Human Resources policy manual by developing new or revised employment-related policies that help supervisors guide employees uniformly and fairly. Staff also tracks state and federal laws, executive orders, and regulations that address human resources management issues, and works to ensure MDC is in compliance.

Recruitment and Selection—Staff uses a variety of recruitment methods to attract qualified applicants for job vacancies and assist supervisors with all activities during the evaluation and recommendation processes. In addition, staff monitors MDC's affirmative action effort to ensure equal employment opportunities.

Training and Development—Staff administers MDC's employee development and leadership training programs, which includes the Academy for Leadership Excellence. The academy provides competency-based training for all employees, which are based on specifically identified knowledge, skills, behaviors and attitudes MDC considers important to success.

Safety—Staff administers loss-control programs including safety training, hazard identification on public lands, chemical safety, and personal injury, vehicle accident and public mishap reporting and monitoring.

Outreach & Education Division



Outreach and Education Division

Mission: *To help Missourians connect with nature and conserve it, too.*

Goals:

- Teach Missourians how to sustain healthy plant and animal communities.
- Provide Missourians of all ages with skills and knowledge to enjoy the outdoors.
- Show the many benefits people get from conserving our fish, forests and wildlife.
- Teach the importance of science and ethical behavior in balancing how we live with our fish, forests and wildlife.
- Help Missourians understand these key concepts of conservation:
  a. A healthy environment needs a diverse mix of plants and animals.
  b. Forests, grasslands, rivers and wetlands are always changing—with or without us. To live in balance with the natural world, we must understand how it works and work with it.
  c. It's natural for what's on the ground to flow downhill into streams and ponds. To protect the health of our waters and the life that depends on them, we must be mindful of what we put on the land and how we change it.
  d. Hunting, fishing, trapping and harvesting wood are part of our heritage, provide us with valuable resources and, perhaps most important, are tools that can be used to improve and maintain the health of our fish, forests and wildlife long into the future.

Programs:

Conservation Nature Centers and Visitor Centers—These are located in Jefferson City, Kirkwood, Blue Springs, Springfield, Cape Girardeau, Glencoe, Branson, St. Charles, St. Louis and St. Joseph. Exhibits and naturalist-led programs, as well as walking trails, offer about 900,000 visitors each year a variety of opportunities to learn about and enjoy Missouri's nature. Although it is also an MDC facility focused on education, the Discovery Center in Kansas City uses a slightly different approach to reaching youth in an urban area. Six thematic classrooms provide students with a broad range of hands-on learning about conservation concepts and sustainable resources.

Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Centers—Five staffed shooting ranges provide safe, inviting places for hunters and others to practice shooting rifles, shotguns, handguns and archery equipment. In addition, a variety of conservation-related classes are offered to the public, including birding, orienteering, fishing, youth hunting and more. More than 130,000 people attend programs and use these facilities each year. In addition, more than 70 unstaffed ranges (including both firearms and archery ranges) serve Missourians throughout the state. In some cases, local cooperative agreements provide management of the facilities.

Teacher/Youth Leader Training—Conservation education consultants, outdoor skills specialists and education coordinators work with teachers and youth groups throughout the state. Teachers receive free conservation education materials and learn to incorporate conservation concepts and outdoor skills into their curriculum.

Hunter Education—Since 1988, hunter education training has been mandatory for all hunters born on or after Jan. 1, 1967. Our staff works with conservation agents to coordinate volunteer hunter educators who provide about 1000 classes each year, resulting in hunter certification of about 30,000 people annually.

Grants to Schools—In recent years, about $70,000 in grants has been available to develop outdoor classrooms, where students can learn firsthand about plants and wildlife. In 2005, $250,000 was also available to schools for conservation field trips. As part of the new "Learning Outdoors" program, conservation grants to schools will be expanded in future years. Grants for field trips, outdoor classrooms, learning kits and outdoor skills equipment will complement the use of new learning units in the classroom.

Outdoor Skills Events (youth fishing/hunting clinics, Missouri's Outdoor Women and partnership events such as 4-H Shooting Sports etc.)—Each year we present special public events to give thousands of Missourians of all ages a chance to learn hands-on skills so they can enjoy our great outdoors for years to come.

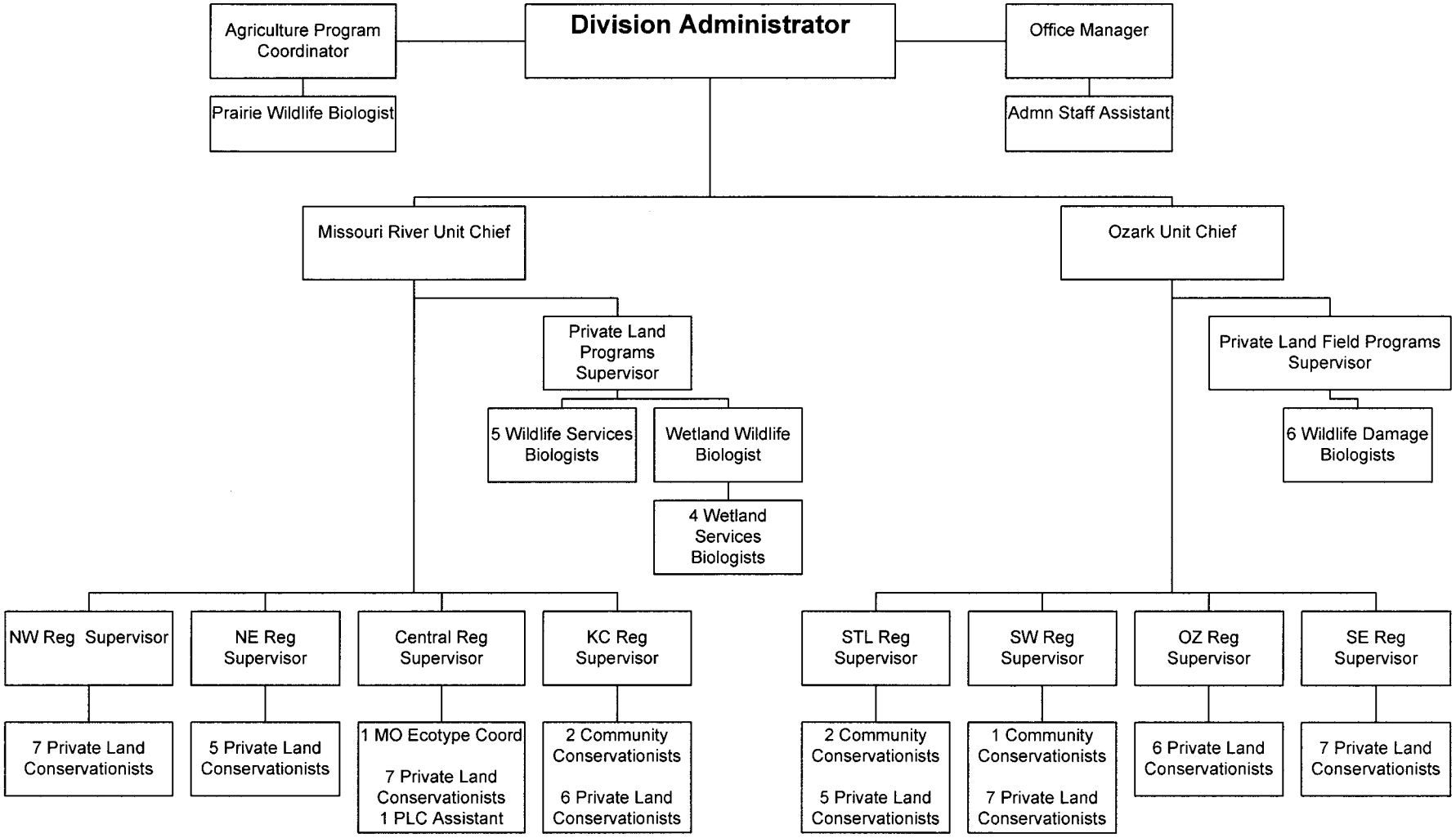
"Missouri Conservationist" Magazine and "Missouri Outdoors" TV Show—These award-winning programs combine to give more than a million Missourians free access to information on how to conserve and enjoy our state's fish, forest and wildlife resources. The magazine is mailed to almost 500,000 readers each month and the TV show airs throughout the state. A quarterly magazine section for children is also sent to schools.

Web, News, Publications, Video and Audio Productions—It takes many kinds of media to provide information on conservation and all its related opportunities. We serve up more than 10,000 web document pages which are viewed millions of times each year, almost 1000 different free publications, weekly news releases, and loan dozens of video features provided on a free-loan basis. The information covers topics as diverse as identifying birds, hunting and fishing regulations, and creating wildlife habitat in an agricultural landscape. The information flows in as well as out—an ombudsman finds the answers to citizens' questions and helps to investigate concerns and resolve complaints.

Citizen Involvement/Awareness Programs (Grow Native, Missouri Master Naturalist, No More Trash)—In the past few years, several new programs to help Missourians promote conservation at a statewide and grassroots level have gotten underway. Three partners work with MDC to sponsor these (Missouri Department of Agriculture, University of Missouri Extension and Missouri Department of Transportation respectively).


CHARLES W
SCHWARTZ

Private Land Services Division



Private Land Services Division

Mission: *To help Missouri landowners achieve long-term conservation of natural resources and meet their land-use objectives in ways that enhance land stewardship.*

Organization: With 93 percent of Missouri in private ownership, the health of our natural resources will be determined by private landowners. In recognition of the need to provide enhanced support to traditional agricultural producers, as well as growing numbers of individuals that own land for recreation, Private Land Services Division was established in 1999. The division contains fish, forest, wildlife and agriculture professionals that provide conservation assistance to private landowners in Missouri.

Goals:

- To provide timely technical advice to private landowners who request assistance.
- To help private landowners locate financial assistance that could defray resource treatment costs.
- To build partnerships with other agencies and the private sector that support private landowner efforts to achieve conservation.
- To improve awareness of conservation issues/challenges, as well as methods of improvement.

Programs:

Technical Support— Private Land conservationists are available to evaluate resource needs and provide advice/recommendations to private landowners through in-office or on-ground visits, as well as workshops, field days and other initiatives. Most of these positions are co-located in USDA service centers to make contact easy for private landowners in local communities throughout the state.

Financial Assistance— MDC has established effective working partnerships with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency to integrate fish, forest and wildlife considerations into implementation of Farm Bill programs that include Conservation Reserve program, Wetland Reserve program, Environmental Quality Incentives program, Grassland Reserve program, Conservation Security program and Wildlife Habitat Incentives program. MDC is also in partnership with non-governmental organizations such as Ducks Unlimited, Quail Unlimited and the National Wild Turkey Federation, Missouri Prairie Foundation and Pheasants Forever to develop cost-share and other initiatives through matching arrangements.

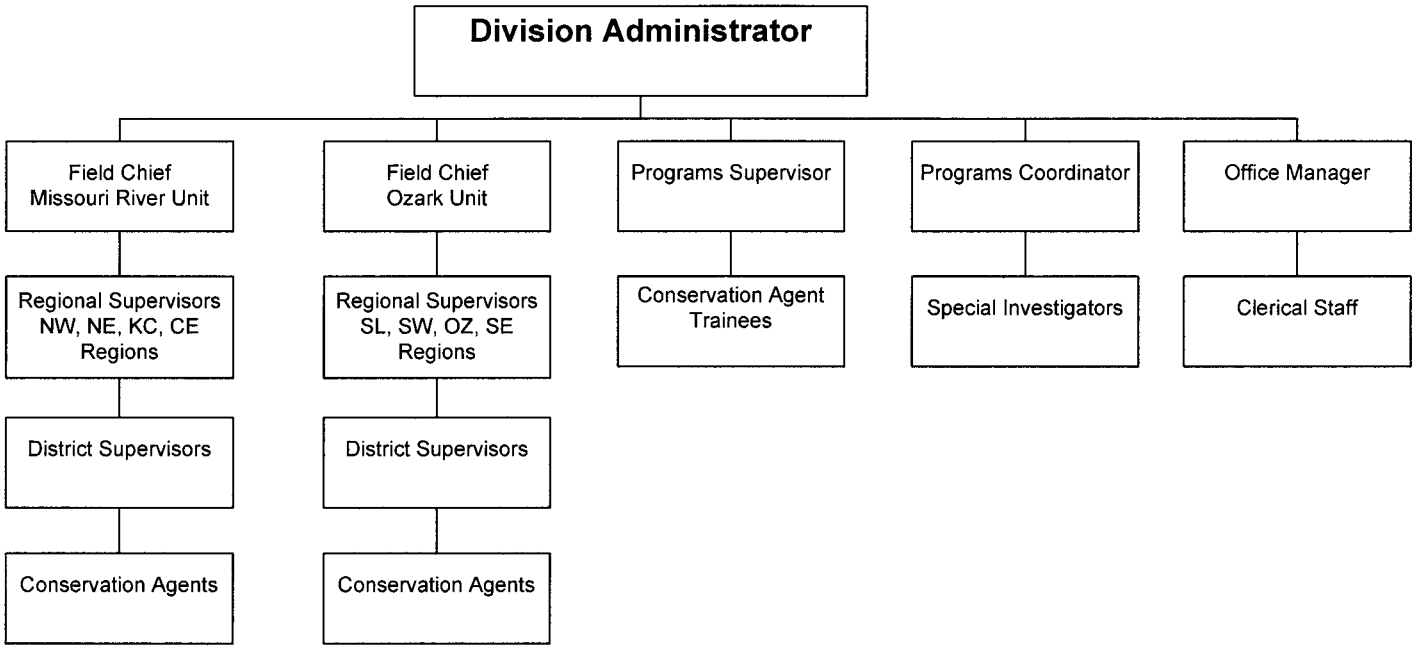
Wildlife Damage Assistance— Wildlife damage control biologists provide expert and specialized technical assistance to private landowners experiencing problems with wildlife including beaver, coyote, otter, Canada geese, deer and other species.

Agriculture Liaison— Liaison efforts with agriculture agencies and groups are offered to foster communication and understanding of fish, forest and wildlife issues as relates to agriculture. These efforts are very important since 65 percent of the land area of Missouri is included in farms.

Community Conservation Program— Community conservationists in Kansas City, St. Louis and Springfield/Branson/Joplin areas are available to deliver natural resource technical services at the municipal, county and regional level. Their job focus is to work with communities, urban planners and developers to make informed land use decisions that enhance the conservation of Missouri's forest, fish and wildlife resources.

Native Ecotype Program— Prairie once covered about one-third of Missouri; however, more than 99 percent of native prairie has been converted to other uses, risking the genetic diversity associated with native prairie plants. This program seeks to conserve native prairie plants by using seed collected from the wild to establish plots from which seed can be harvested and made available to interested growers for further propagation. The program focus is on plants for which commercial sources are unavailable or very limited.

Protection Division



Protection Division

Mission: *To protect and conserve Missouri fish, forest and wildlife resources and to serve citizens through a coordinated program of resource law enforcement, education, information and one-on-one contacts.*

Programs:

Conservation Agents—Agents carry out a variety of programs for MDC within their county assignments. Major job components are resource law enforcement activities; hunter education; local media liaison duties (many with regular radio/TV programs and newspaper articles); educational and informational presentations to adult and youth groups; wildlife surveys; response to fish kills, wildlife nuisance and damage complaints; and basic fish, forest, and wildlife management advice and services to private landowners. Conservation agents are the official MDC representatives in their local assignments.

Wildlife law enforcement efforts to maintain compliance with the Wildlife Code, and enforcement of other state laws for the safe public use of MDC-owned lands, represent a major portion of Protection Division's workload. Conservation agents contacted 199,810 hunters and anglers in FY05 to ensure compliance and provide regulation information. During these contacts, agents noted 24,552 violations, issued 4,151 written warnings, and made 7,126 arrests. This depicts a 93 percent conviction rate, which indicates quality work and excellent public support by agents in the area of resource law enforcement.

Training—Because of the nature of their work, conservation agents must have specialized training and a broad working knowledge of all MDC programs and areas of MDC responsibilities. New agents are required to have a bachelor of science degree in forestry, fisheries management, wildlife management, wildlife conservation, natural resources conservation law enforcement criminal justice, agriculture, education with an emphasis in science or biology, or other related sciences, and must also successfully complete 26 weeks of intensive training before assignment to a district. After completion of training, the Missouri Department of Public Safety issues a peace officer standards and training license attesting that the agent has completed 1,000 hours of POST licensed law enforcement training.

In-service training is provided annually in accordance with changing resource conditions and law enforcement standards. All licensed peace officers and reserve officers must successfully complete a minimum of 48 hours every three years of continuing education to maintain their peace officer license.

Operation Game Thief—Operation Game Thief provides a way for citizens to anonymously report poaching incidents with the opportunity for a monetary reward. In FY05, OGT produced 78 convictions from 579 telephone calls and resulted in $3,450 in reward money being paid to informants.

Revocations—Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact—Missouri is a participating state in the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact. The compact is a legal organization of the wildlife agencies of 21 member states that agree to reciprocally honor revocations/suspensions of hunting, fishing and trapping privileges for wildlife-related violations. During the last fiscal year 1,179 people from other states had their privileges revoked in Missouri through provisions of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact; an additional 110 were revoked for cause by the Conservation Commission in Missouri and submitted to the IWVC. Participation in the compact also benefits Missourians who travel to other compact member states for hunting and fishing activities. If found in violation, they may be given the opportunity to resolve the citation by mail rather than being required to post a bond before leaving the member state. They are subject to revocation by all compact states if the citation is ignored.

Missouri Seed Program—The Missouri Seed program provides habitat planning information and food plot seed to Missouri landowners. The goals of the program are to improve the quality of wildlife habitat on private lands and promote better farmer and landowner relations with MDC. The program is a quality avenue in which to contact private landowners regarding wildlife management programs, as well as other programs which MDC offers. Protection and Private Land Services divisions share in the administration of the program.

Hunter Education—Hunter education certification is required for purchasing any type of Missouri firearms hunting permit for people born on or after Jan. 1, 1967 (except the youth deer and turkey hunting permit). Conservation agents work with Outreach & Education division personnel and approximately 2,000 volunteer instructors to coordinate hunter education courses in all 114 counties of Missouri. Protection Division personnel are also heavily involved in investigating every hunting incident in the state.

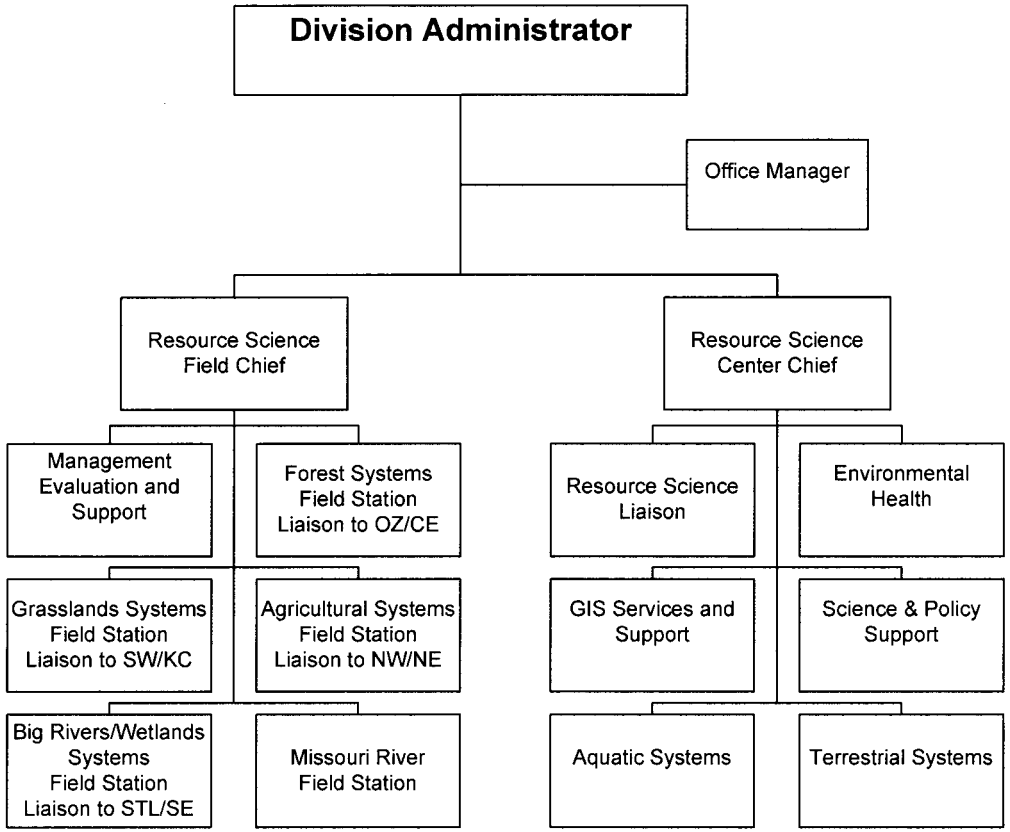
Hunting Method Exemption Program—The Hunting Method Exemption program provides special exemptions to physically disabled people by allowing them to hunt and take wildlife by methods not otherwise legally permitted. During last fiscal year 3,516 hunter method exemptions were approved for Missouri citizens.

Group Fishing Permit Exemptions—Protection Division administers permit exemption authorizations to supervised groups involved in rehabilitation programs or groups of hospital patients or people with disabilities under therapy. During this past fiscal year, 436 group fishing permits were issued for outings, providing fishing experiences to persons who otherwise may not be able to participate in outdoor fishing activities.

Share the Harvest—Conservation agents and the Conservation Federation of Missouri coordinate the Share the Harvest program, in which hunters may donate deer meat to those in need through established charitable organizations. During FY05 approximately 5,161 hunters donated 275,374 pounds of venison to needy Missourians. Hunters donating venison to the program pay for the processing and tell the processor how many pounds of meat they want to donate. Hunters who wish to donate their entire deer may receive a $35 reduction in the price of processing which is paid to the processor by the Missouri Conservation Federation. In some cases, local organizations provide additional funds for processing so there is no cost to hunters who wish to donate deer.


CHARLES W
SCHWARTZ

Resource Science Division



Resource Science Division

Mission: *Provide the science-based information needed to conserve, appreciate and effectively manage the living resources of Missouri.*

Goals: Natural resource management is based on sound biological, geographical and sociological information. An objective to establish a nationally recognized, science-based model for conservation will be accomplished by 1) ensuring ongoing development of a comprehensive and integrated understanding of Missouri's living resources and their values to society, 2) using accumulated knowledge to inform and recommend conservation actions, 3) evaluating the biological and social impacts of conservation actions and 4) reporting emerging knowledge of Missouri's living resources.

An integrated focus in Resource Science Division is organized around six systems and functions rather than traditional disciplines, and is dedicated to delivery of management assistance through five field stations; this approach was the basis for the following organizational units within the division (see organizational chart):

Terrestrial Systems staff strives to understand plant and animal habitat relationships, monitor population status and develop harvest and species management recommendations. Staff is regularly involved with specialized projects to monitor wildlife and plant diversity and population changes and forest silviculture.

Aquatic and Wetland Systems scientists conduct research and surveys that center on issues involving fisheries management, wetland and waterfowl management, fish communities, watersheds, stream-riparian-floodplain systems, in-stream flow, stream bank stabilization and interactions among predators and prey and species of concern. Harvest management recommendations for statewide fish populations, waterfowl and other migratory birds are developed by this unit staff.

Science and Policy Support staff works to link and improve access to databases documenting Missouri's rich biodiversity through a web-based archival and retrieval system. Post-season harvest hunter and angler surveys, attitude surveys and public-use surveys are conducted to better understand the opinions and attitudes of Missourians and to ensure that human dimensions information is integrated with biological information to inform management decisions. Natural resource economics data is collected in conjunction with the public use and attitude information. Biometricians ensure statistically sound study designs and the use of appropriate statistical techniques to analyze and interpret complex natural resources questions.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) will continue to play an ever-increasing role in the natural resources management, planning and evaluation. The goal of the GIS program is to fully use geospatial technology and products to support natural resource decisions, archive the processes and evaluate the results. The GIS program supports more than 300 ArcInfo and ArcView users. Monthly training courses are conducted to help train new ArcView users and improve the skills of existing users.

The **Environmental Health** unit primarily provides the services that ensure monitoring and protection of Missouri's forest, fish and wildlife resources. Primary functions include protecting aquatic biodiversity such as mussel conservation and genetics research, water quality, forest health, and providing responsive service to agency staff, the public and other agencies and entities. Staff coordinates pollution and fish kill investigations with the Department of Natural Resources, and monitors contaminants in fish with the Department of Health.

The **Management Evaluation and Support** group provides the specific focus on research and monitoring to support field staff. This involves coordinating, designing and conducting surveys, monitoring efforts and applied research aimed at understanding the impacts of management actions on Missouri's resources. Scientists who work on crayfish, quail, karst and botanical surveys provide liaison support to local managers and facilitate the transfer of information within and across regions. Our division manages

Missouri's Natural Heritage program, which tracks the status and occurrence of 1,111 species of conservation concern and natural communities, and ensures that they are carefully documented, mapped and updated. In addition our division supports the Missouri Fish and Wildlife Information System (MoFWIS), a searchable database of habitat, management and distribution data on more than 700 species.

The **Field Unit of Resource Science Division** is leading regional management evaluations by developing protocols and study designs with the goal of "learning by doing." Field stations, actively integrated with the division's centralized functions, focus on improving understanding of ecological systems, functions and processes by working with regional staff throughout the state.

1) The **Grasslands Systems Field Station in Clinton** focuses on ecological processes and management implications for cool and warm season grass pastures and hay lands, native prairie, savannas and glades and grassland-associated fish, invertebrate, wildlife species of conservation concern and all streams and impoundments fed by grassland watersheds.
2) The **Forest Systems Field Station in West Plains** focuses on ecological processes and management implications for upland forests, glades, savannas, springs, karst, fens and cold and warm water streams and impoundments drained by forested watersheds and management of forest-associated fish, invertebrate and wildlife species of conservation concern.
3) The **Big Rivers and Wetlands Systems Field Station in Jackson and Puxico** focuses on Missouri's large rivers and associated floodplains to understand landscape level ecological processes, and develop tools and strategies to improve channel and floodplain habitats, bottomland forests and wetlands, for fish, invertebrate and wildlife communities including species of concern and invasive species.
4) The **Agricultural Systems Field Station in Kirksville** emphasizes annually cropped lands that produce cereal grains, oil crops, crops for human consumption and annually planted livestock forages. Also included in the field station's focus are retired crop lands including CRP plantings, cool season grass pastures and old fields, concentrated livestock operations and streams and impoundments drained by agricultural watersheds and management for agricultural-associated fish, invertebrate and wildlife species of conservation concern.
5) The **Missouri River Field Station in Chillicothe** focuses on issues directly related to management of the Missouri River. Many aspects of large river ecology will be addressed by the Big Rivers and Wetlands Field Station, including some important to the Missouri River. However, several active restoration and recovery programs are being conducted along the Missouri River, and this field station will bring a focused and coordinated monitoring approach among agencies to help clarify the success of these activities.

Programs:

Population management—Manage for, and when feasible, restore viable populations of plants, fish and wildlife compatible with the ecological capability of the land and balanced with the desires of resource users and the public.

Resource Science Division identifies priority population management challenges and develops recommendations, in collaboration with resource divisions, to manage harvested species, species of concern and invasive species.

Ecological processes—Increase our understanding of the processes that determine habitat conditions for native and introduced animals and plants.

Erosion and deposition through water, wind and fire are the natural disturbance and renewal processes that are essential to maintaining healthy systems and functions. The division focuses investigations on how to effectively re-establish or mimic these processes in Missouri's contemporary landscape to ensure restoration and management of plant and animal communities.

Management evaluation—Ensure that results of management and policy actions are measured and appropriately linked to resource-related outcomes, budgets and staff time.

Ongoing evaluation of resource responses and resource uses are essential to determine whether goals are met and to understand when change is needed. Resource Science Division promotes "learning by doing" to improve resource management programs and to ensure accountability of staff and budget resources.

Human dimensions— Provide and promote the use of human dimensions information in the management decision process.

Resource Science Division collaborates with other divisions to ensure that human dimensions information is acquired and used in policy and management decisions. This information is used to track changing public expectations, anticipate demographic trends, and ultimately to provide the information needed to make resource policy and management judgments.

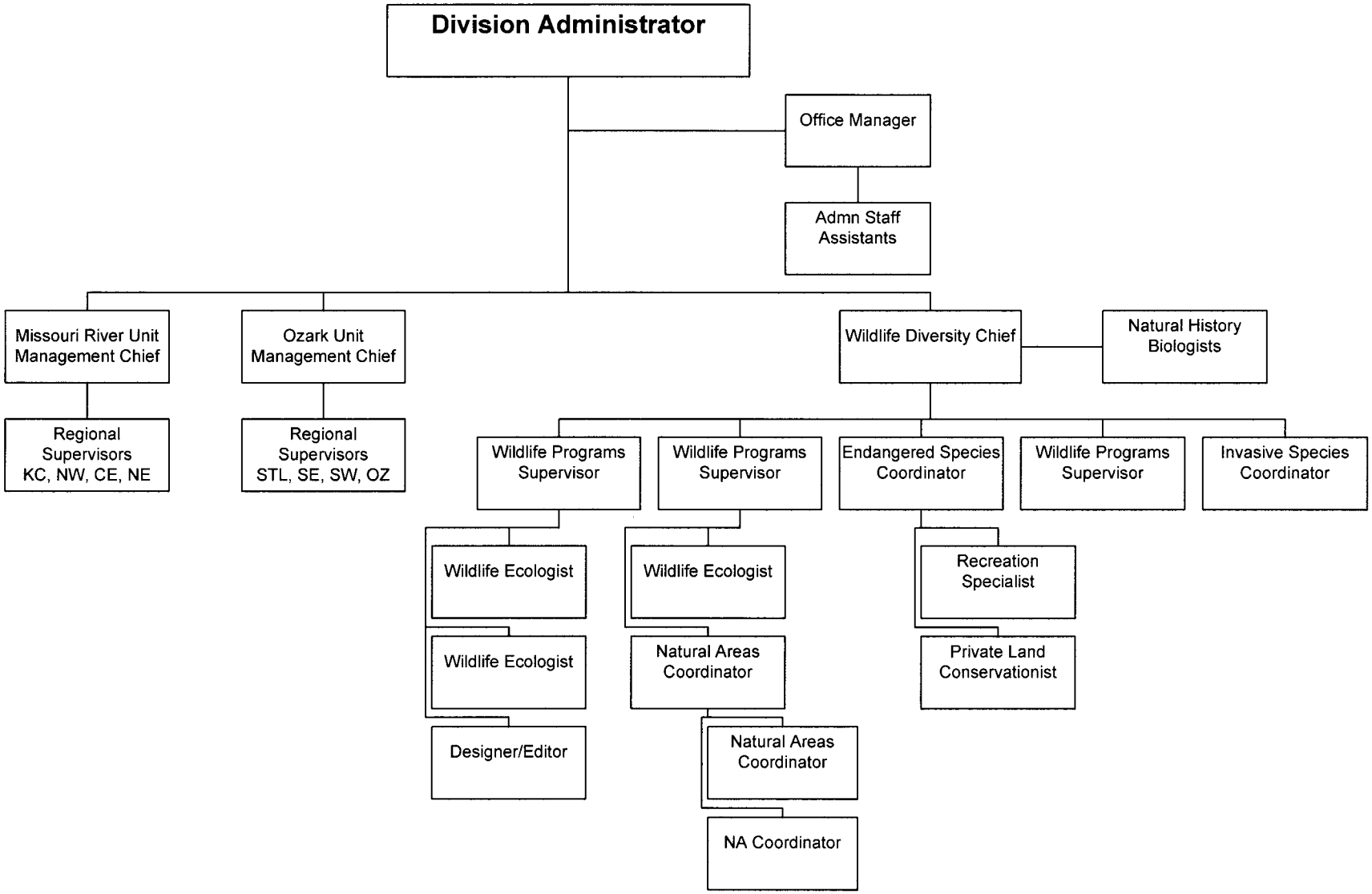
Large-scale planning— Ensure that all planning and program efforts are well coordinated within and outside the agency, are based on sound science and include evaluative measures.

Advances in Geographic Information Systems and associated ecological and geospatial applications (e.g., Ecological Classification Systems) are used to inventory, assess and monitor resource condition and management results at national, state, regional and area scales. Using these tools, services and information are developed and supported that facilitate natural resources planning.

Information transfer— Manage, share and transfer data collected in a useful, archived and easily obtainable format.

The division ensures that information about population status, harvest and public use—as well as the results of investigations—are timely, current, accurate and available in a form that is useful.

Wildlife Division



Wildlife Division

"Managing Wildlife…for the People"

Mission: *To conserve for public benefit Missouri's wildlife resources and the landscape elements on which wildlife depend, and to manage public lands to conserve and enhance their natural resources, provide vital ecosystem services, and invite public use and enjoyment.*

Goals:

- Balance wildlife resource needs with public expectations.
- Advocate wildlife and biodiversity conservation.
- Actively seek ways to inform peers, cooperators and citizens about wildlife stewardship.
- Provide opportunity for all citizens to use, enjoy and learn about wildlife and their habitats.
- Manage 410 conservation areas and provide recreation, natural areas and natural history support to all management divisions and all MDC land managers.

Programs: Wildlife Division is responsible for the management of Missouri's wildlife resources to best serve the long-term interests of the people of the state. Fulfilling this role involves a wide range of programs and activities on public, as well as private, land.

Public Resources Management—MDC area facilities/infrastructures maintained and operated in a way that invites public use.

- Ensure that conservation area facilities are clean and operated in ways that welcome citizen visitors to the areas.
- Maintain infrastructures of all types in ways that enable them to meet their use expectations.
- Promote Adopt-A-Trail groups to help with trail maintenance.
- Develop mourning dove habitats as a means to attract doves and hunters to MDC lands, using FY04 results to improve program effectiveness and efficiency.

Deer populations balanced with the interest and tolerance of landowners, hunters and the general public.

- Manage conservation area deer hunting programs in ways that provide a range of hunting opportunities for deer hunters as outlined in the deer strategic direction statement.
- Ensure that deer populations on conservation areas do not create problems for neighbors.
- Explain the rationale for our new strategic direction for deer management to citizens, including issues underlying changes.
- Assist private landowners with deer harvest management programs on private lands.

Manage forests on MDC lands that promote forest health, sustainable wood products, wildlife habitat and ecosystem restoration.

- Continue efforts to assist Forestry Division staff in the attainment of agency timber management objectives (e.g., Wildlife Division staff should complete wetland inventories on Forestry administered conservation areas to free up Forestry staff time for forest management).
- Actively pursue opportunities to use timber harvests as a means to attain natural community restoration objectives, especially for oak-pine woodlands, savannas, glades, and prairies.
- Assist Forestry in natural area management activities, such as prescribed burning, on Forestry areas.

Initiate an MDC invasive species coordination function in conjunction with other affected/involved divisions.

- Integrate the coordination of invasive and exotic species control into agency Wildlife Diversity programs.
- Control invasive/exotic species on conservation lands, especially in natural areas, while taking actions where appropriate to control the introduction of new invasive/exotic species to MDC lands.

Strive for wildlife diversity through natural community management/restoration on MDC lands.

- Manage MDC's Wildlife Diversity program in a way that benefits the full range of MDC programs and Missouri landscapes.
- Continue support of the Missouri Natural Areas program.
- Continue to coordinate MDC's endangered species program.
- Restore natural communities on MDC lands, especially native grasslands and wetlands.
- Continue a renewed focus on the "active management" of wildlife habitats and plant/animal communities on MDC lands.
- Ensure that aquatic species are profiled in agency wildlife diversity efforts, especially the State Wildlife Grant and Landowner Incentive programs.
- Implement the directions outlined in MDC's Strategic Guidance for Northern Bobwhite Quail Recovery.
- Implement management programs on conservation lands that feature priority focus areas for bird conservation as outlined in Partners in Flight, Central Hardwoods Joint Venture, and Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture Bird Conservation plans, and Important Bird Area recommendations.

Develop and strengthen effective conservation partnerships.

- Administer Missouri's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS), an approach to conservation planning and implementation within a framework of partnerships to integrate conservation action for all wildlife statewide.
- Administer State Wildlife Grants (SWG) to improve opportunities for MDC to work with conservation partners to conserve species with the greatest conservation needs.
- Continue joint support with Audubon Missouri for a wildlife ecologist position in the Audubon Missouri office that works to conserve bird populations.
- Continue to serve as chair of the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative Steering Committee to promote all bird conservation within the framework of 30 organizations and private citizen partners.
- Assemble the conservation partnerships necessary to secure grants and other funding for rehabilitation of wetland management structures on the oldest wetland management areas through the Golden Anniversary Wetlands initiative.
- Form partnerships with landowners for wildlife stewardship on private land through the Landowner Incentive program and provide technical support through personal landowner contacts.

Conservation by the Numbers

- ▲ Actual Funds Available and Disbursements
- ▲ Number of Deer Harvested by County
- ▲ Number of Turkeys Harvested by County
- ▲ Acres of Conservation Land by County
- ▲ Payment In-lieu of Taxes (PILT) by County
- ▲ County Aid Road Trust (CART) Program
- ▲ Capital Improvement Projects Funding by County

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Actual Funds Available and Disbursements
For Fiscal Year 2005

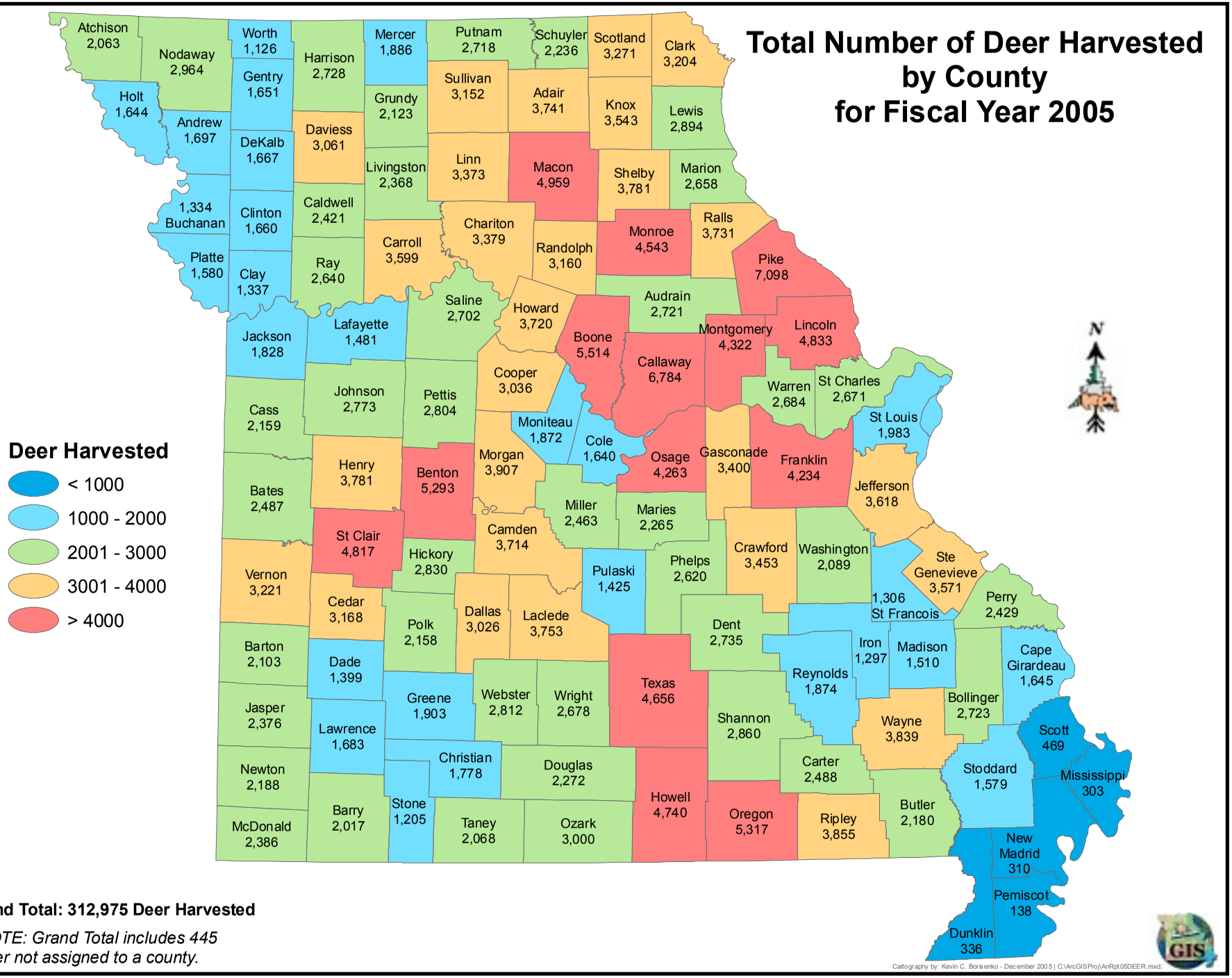
RECEIPTS

Sales Tax	$96,524,659
Hunting, Fishing & Commercial Permit Sales	29,295,503
Federal Reimbursements	19,198,694
Agricultural Sales	1,739,446
Timber Sales	2,401,602
Other Miscellaneous Receipts	1,487,353
Miscellaneous Fees & Tags	1,386,941
Surplus Property	1,044,433
Interest	768,589
Publication Sales	847,545
Nursery Stock Sales	983,779
Grants, Gifts, Bequests & Donations	203,938
Contractual Services	672,302
Rentals	50,380
Miscellaneous Sales	136,932
Land Sales	36,000
Yield Tax	75,222
Refunds	173,403
Damage Reimbursements	75,574
Concession Income	17,330
TOTAL RECEIPTS	**$157,119,624**

DISBURSEMENTS

Construction/Development	$16,242,558
Wildlife	15,106,140
Forestry	14,987,545
Protection	13,470,876
Administrative Services	24,903,536
Design & Development	11,082,357
Fisheries	11,278,187
Outreach & Education	16,092,745
Private Land Services	6,766,496
Land Acquisition/Landowner Assistance/In-Lieu Taxes	5,057,758
Missouri River Unit	1,955,666
Ozark Unit	2,251,761
Administration	2,350,815
Resource Science	11,669,901
Human Resources	2,340,158
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	**$155,556,500**

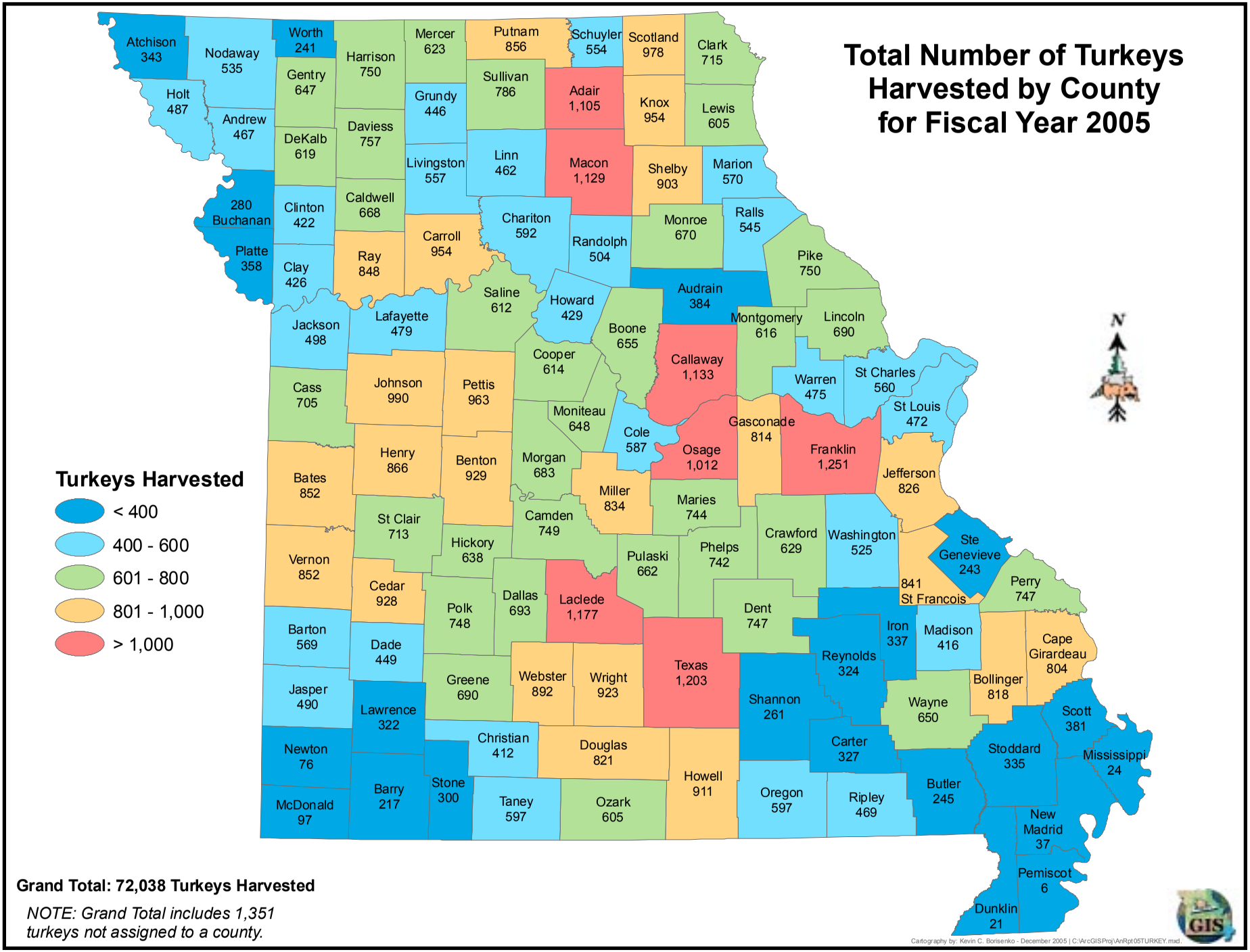
Total Number of Deer Harvested by County for Fiscal Year 2005



Grand Total: 312,975 Deer Harvested

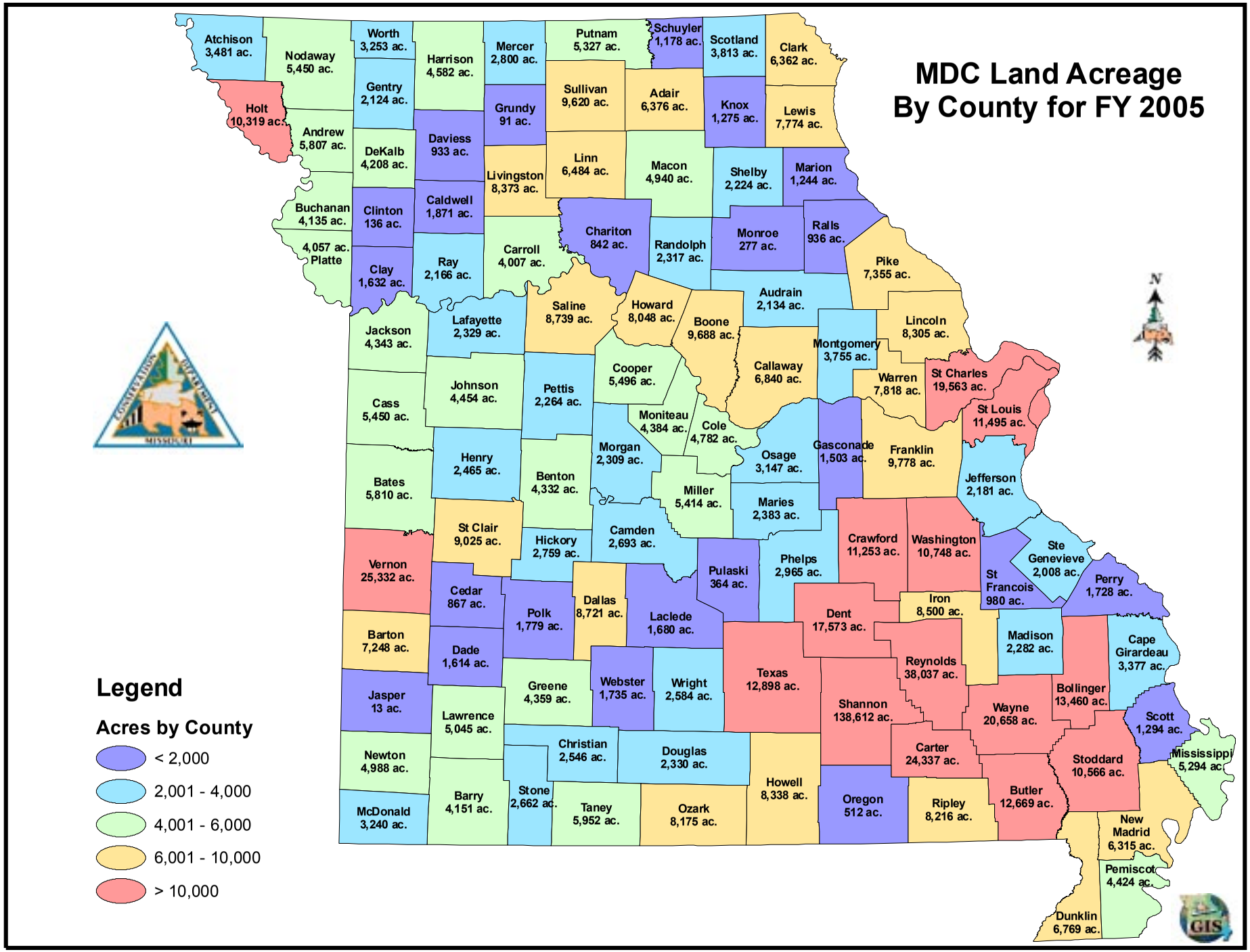
NOTE: Grand Total includes 445 deer not assigned to a county.

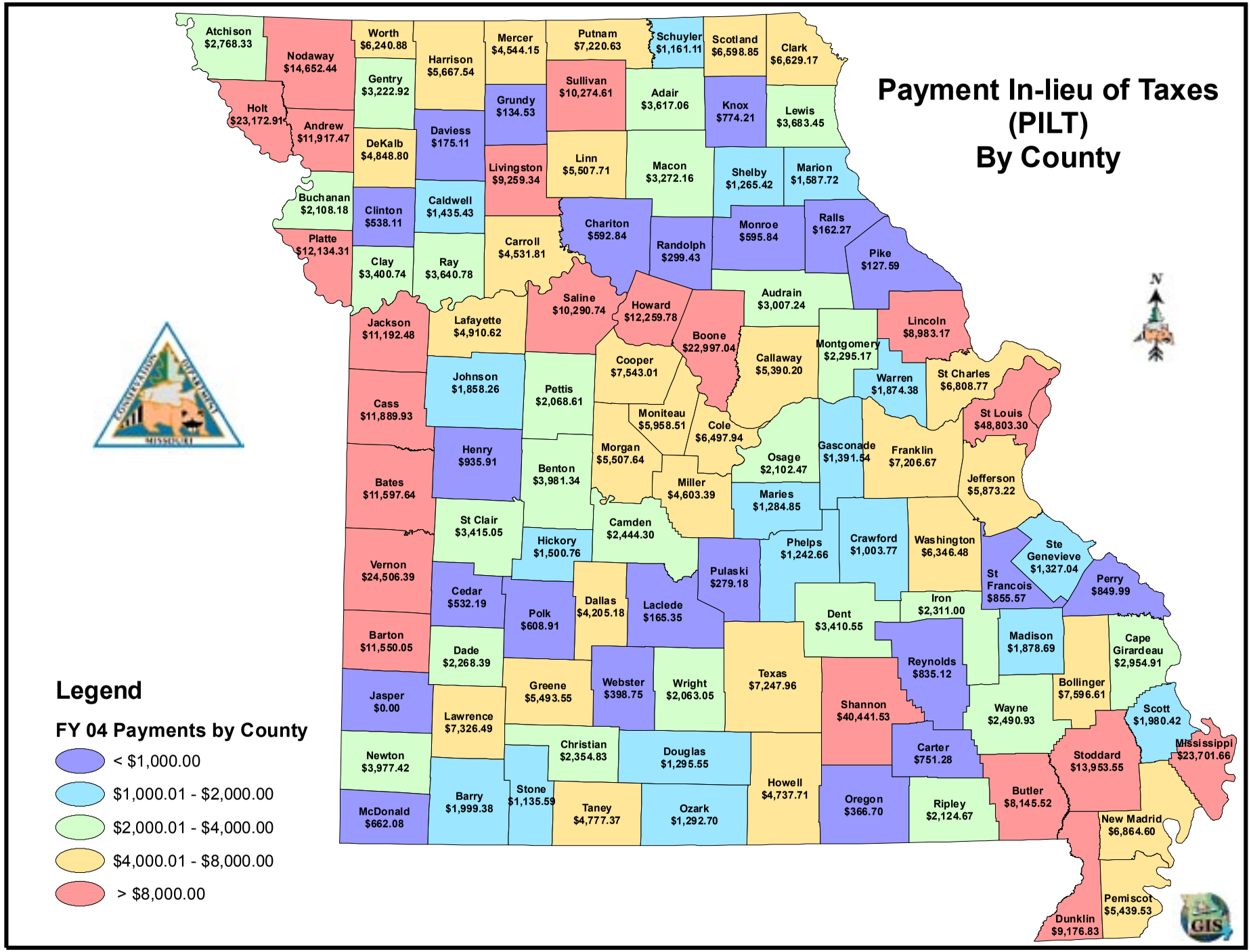
Total Number of Turkeys Harvested by County for Fiscal Year 2005



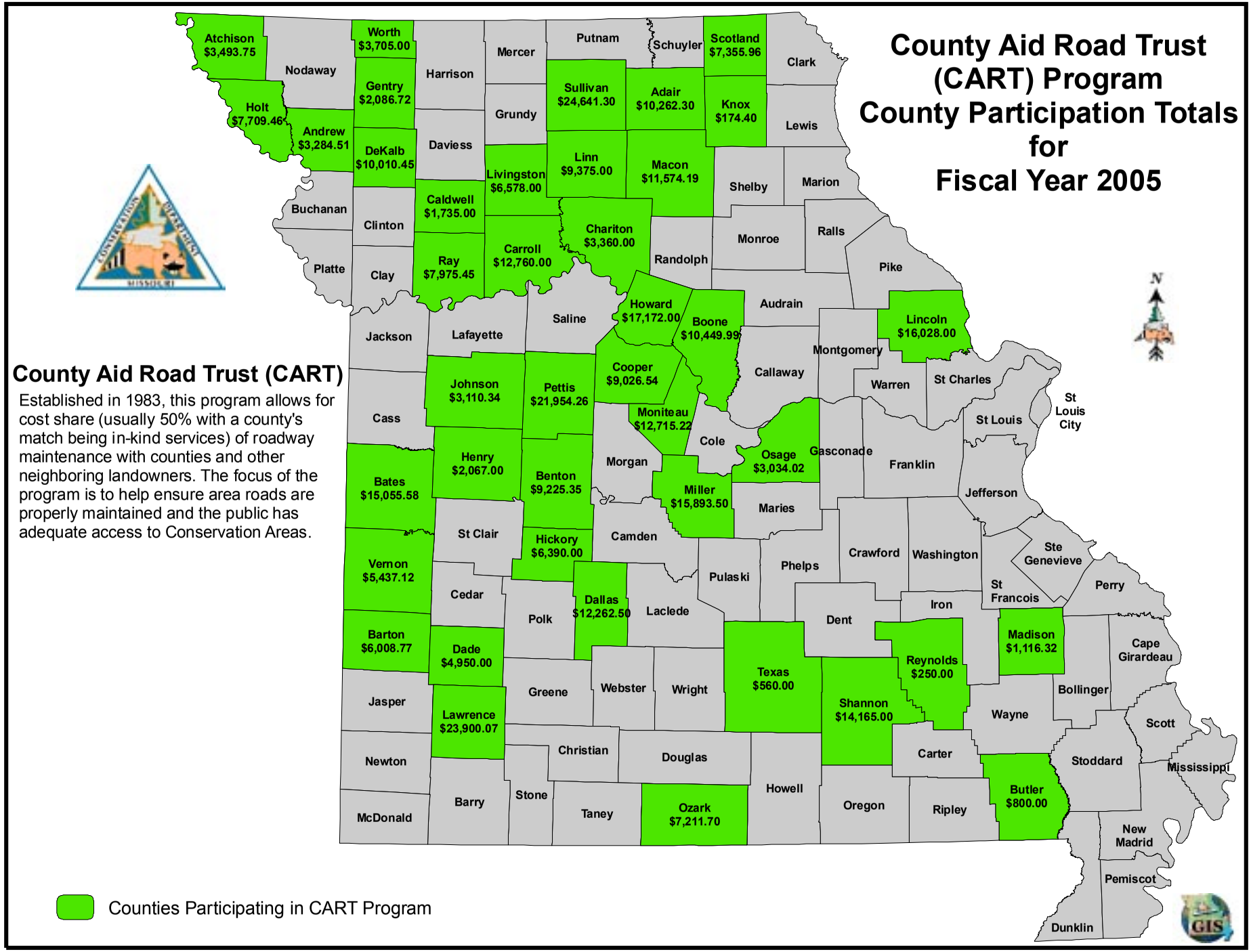
Grand Total: 72,038 Turkeys Harvested

NOTE: Grand Total includes 1,351 turkeys not assigned to a county.


MDC Land Acreage
By County for FY 2005
Atchison 3,481 ac.
Nodaway 5,450 ac.
Worth 3,253 ac.
Harrison 4,582 ac.
Mercer 2,800 ac.
Putnam 5,327 ac.
Schuyler 1,178 ac.
Scotland 3,813 ac.
Clark 6,362 ac.
Holt 10,319 ac.
Andrew 5,807 ac.
Gentry 2,124 ac.
Daviess 933 ac.
Grundy 91 ac.
Sullivan 9,620 ac.
Adair 6,376 ac.
Knox 1,275 ac.
Lewis 7,774 ac.
DeKalb 4,208 ac.
Livingston 8,373 ac.
Linn 6,484 ac.
Macon 4,940 ac.
Shelby 2,224 ac.
Marion 1,244 ac.
Buchanan 4,135 ac.
Clinton 136 ac.
Caldwell 1,871 ac.
Chariton 842 ac.
Randolph 2,317 ac.
Monroe 277 ac.
Ralls 936 ac.
4,057 ac.
Platte
Clay 1,632 ac.
Ray 2,166 ac.
Carroll 4,007 ac.
Pike 7,355 ac.
Audrain 2,134 ac.
Jackson 4,343 ac.
Lafayette 2,329 ac.
Saline 8,739 ac.
Howard 8,048 ac.
Boone 9,688 ac.
Montgomery 3,755 ac.
Lincoln 8,305 ac.
Callaway 6,840 ac.
Warren 7,818 ac.
St Charles 19,563 ac.
Cooper 5,496 ac.
Johnson 4,454 ac.
Pettis 2,264 ac.
Cass 5,450 ac.
Moniteau 4,384 ac.
Cole 4,782 ac.
St Louis 11,495 ac.
Morgan 2,309 ac.
Osage 3,147 ac.
Gasconade 1,503 ac.
Franklin 9,778 ac.
Henry 2,465 ac.
Benton 4,332 ac.
Bates 5,810 ac.
Miller 5,414 ac.
Maries 2,383 ac.
Jefferson 2,181 ac.
St Clair 9,025 ac.
Hickory 2,759 ac.
Camden 2,693 ac.
Crawford 11,253 ac.
Washington 10,748 ac.
Ste Genevieve 2,008 ac.
Vernon 25,332 ac.
Pulaski 364 ac.
Phelps 2,965 ac.
St Francois 980 ac.
Perry 1,728 ac.
Cedar 867 ac.
Polk 1,779 ac.
Dallas 8,721 ac.
Laclede 1,680 ac.
Dent 17,573 ac.
Iron 8,500 ac.
Madison 2,282 ac.
Barton 7,248 ac.
Dade 1,614 ac.
Texas 12,898 ac.
Reynolds 38,037 ac.
Cape Girardeau 3,377 ac.
Greene 4,359 ac.
Webster 1,735 ac.
Wright 2,584 ac.
Shannon 138,612 ac.
Bollinger 13,460 ac.
Jasper 13 ac.
Lawrence 5,045 ac.
Wayne 20,658 ac.
Scott 1,294 ac.
Christian 2,546 ac.
Douglas 2,330 ac.
Carter 24,337 ac.
Mississippi 5,294 ac.
Newton 4,988 ac.
Howell 8,338 ac.
Stoddard 10,566 ac.
Barry 4,151 ac.
Stone 2,662 ac.
Taney 5,952 ac.
Ozark 8,175 ac.
Oregon 512 ac.
Ripley 8,216 ac.
Butler 12,669 ac.
McDonald 3,240 ac.
New Madrid 6,315 ac.
Pemiscot 4,424 ac.
Dunklin 6,769 ac.
N
GIS
Legend
Acres by County
< 2,000
2,001 - 4,000
4,001 - 6,000
6,001 - 10,000
> 10,000


Payment In-lieu of Taxes (PILT) By County
Atchison $2,768.33
Nodaway $14,652.44
Worth $6,240.88
Harrison $5,667.54
Mercer $4,544.15
Putnam $7,220.63
Schuyler $1,161.11
Scotland $6,598.85
Clark $6,629.17
Gentry $3,222.92
Sullivan $10,274.61
Adair $3,617.06
Knox $774.21
Lewis $3,683.45
Holt $23,172.91
Andrew $11,917.47
DeKalb $4,848.80
Daviess $175.11
Grundy $134.53
Livingston $9,259.34
Linn $5,507.71
Macon $3,272.16
Shelby $1,265.42
Marion $1,587.72
Buchanan $2,108.18
Clinton $538.11
Caldwell $1,435.43
Chariton $592.84
Randolph $299.43
Monroe $595.84
Ralls $162.27
Platte $12,134.31
Carroll $4,531.81
Clay $3,400.74
Ray $3,640.78
Pike $127.59
Audrain $3,007.24
Saline $10,290.74
Howard $12,259.78
Boone $22,997.04
Lincoln $8,983.17
Jackson $11,192.48
Lafayette $4,910.62
Cooper $7,543.01
Callaway $5,390.20
Montgomery $2,295.17
Warren $1,874.38
St Charles $6,808.77
Johnson $1,858.26
Pettis $2,068.61
Moniteau $5,958.51
Cole $6,497.94
St Louis $48,803.30
Cass $11,889.93
Henry $935.91
Benton $3,981.34
Morgan $5,507.64
Osage $2,102.47
Gasconade $1,391.54
Franklin $7,206.67
Jefferson $5,873.22
Bates $11,597.64
Miller $4,603.39
Maries $1,284.85
St Clair $3,415.05
Camden $2,444.30
Hickory $1,500.76
Phelps $1,242.66
Crawford $1,003.77
Washington $6,346.48
Ste Genevieve $1,327.04
Vernon $24,506.39
Pulaski $279.18
St Francois $855.57
Perry $849.99
Cedar $532.19
Polk $608.91
Dallas $4,205.18
Laclede $165.35
Dent $3,410.55
Iron $2,311.00
Barton $11,550.05
Dade $2,268.39
Madison $1,878.69
Cape Girardeau $2,954.91
Greene $5,493.55
Webster $398.75
Wright $2,063.05
Texas $7,247.96
Reynolds $835.12
Bollinger $7,596.61
Jasper $0.00
Lawrence $7,326.49
Shannon $40,441.53
Wayne $2,490.93
Scott $1,980.42
Christian $2,354.83
Douglas $1,295.55
Carter $751.28
Mississippi $23,701.66
Newton $3,977.42
Barry $1,999.38
Stone $1,135.59
Howell $4,737.71
Oregon $366.70
Stoddard $13,953.55
McDonald $662.08
Taney $4,777.37
Ozark $1,292.70
Ripley $2,124.67
Butler $8,145.52
New Madrid $6,864.60
Pemiscot $5,439.53
Dunklin $9,176.83
N
GIS
Legend
FY 04 Payments by County
< $1,000.00
$1,000.01 - $2,000.00
$2,000.01 - $4,000.00
$4,000.01 - $8,000.00
> $8,000.00

County Aid Road Trust (CART) Program County Participation Totals for Fiscal Year 2005

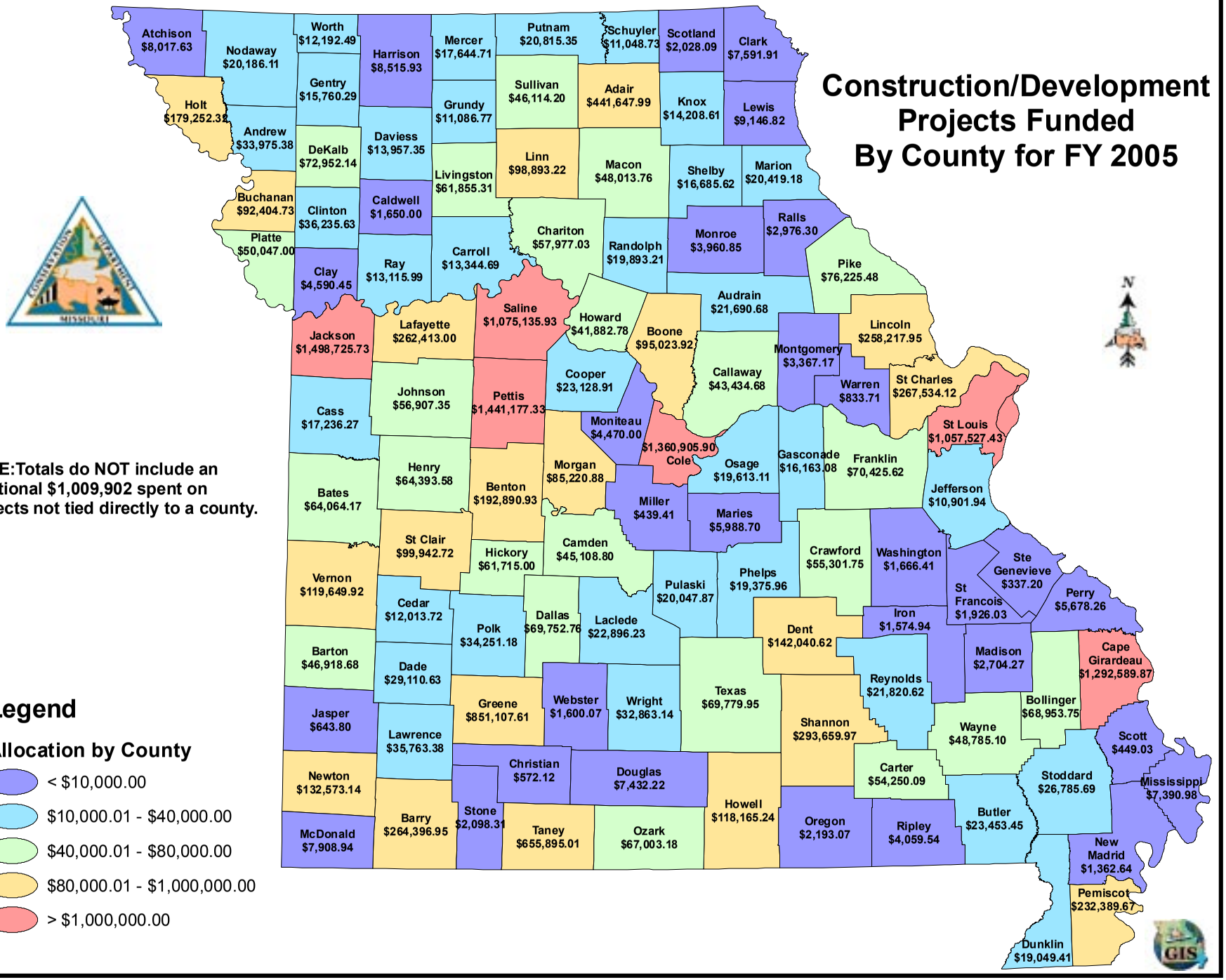


County Aid Road Trust (CART)

Established in 1983, this program allows for cost share (usually 50% with a county's match being in-kind services) of roadway maintenance with counties and other neighboring landowners. The focus of the program is to help ensure area roads are properly maintained and the public has adequate access to Conservation Areas.

Counties Participating in CART Program

Construction/Development Projects Funded By County for FY 2005



NOTE:Totals do NOT include an additional $1,009,902 spent on projects not tied directly to a county.

Legend

Allocation by County

- < $10,000.00
- $10,000.01 - $40,000.00
- $40,000.01 - $80,000.00
- $80,000.01 - $1,000,000.00
- > $1,000,000.00



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